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It feels like we say this every year, but there's never been a better time to be a geek.

In fact, flicking back through the issues to this time last year, it turns out that's pretty much what I said. Either things keep getting better and better, or I'm just frighteningly unoriginal. It's probably a bit of both.

Anyway, I digress. The Geek 100 is our annual celebration of the future of sci-fi, fantasy and horror, but this year has proved to be by far our biggest struggle in terms of actually distilling the best things on the way into a perfect century – and even then we've cheated a bit. We regret nothing.

What this does mean is that this issue you are holding in your hands contains by far the most comprehensive guide to what the genre has in store for us in 2017 and beyond – and believe us, there's a lot to look forward to.

From the Avengers and Justice League's big-screen team-ups, to returning favourites like *Twin Peaks* and *Game Of Thrones* and future blockbusters like *Blade Runner 2049*, *Valerian* and *Alien: Covenant*, there's far more here than we can feasibly mention.

The best part? We have the exclusive first words from the stars and creators of the likes of *Ghost In The Shell*, *Spider-Man: Homecoming*, *Power Rangers*, *Black Panther*, *Annihilation*, *War For The Planet Of The Apes*, *A Series Of Unfortunate Events* and many more.

Plus, our TimeWarp section is full to bursting with retro goodness as per usual. Inside, we talk to Grant Morrison and more about the evolution of Wonder Woman, celebrate 30 years of *Transformers: The Movie* with the cast and crew, and get an audience with Pluto, the unsung star of Wes Craven's *The Hills Have Eyes*.

2016 hasn't exactly been the best year, but this issue has to stand as a good omen for 2017. Right?

Steve

Steve Wright
Editor

GET EXCITED ABOUT KONG: SKULL ISLAND

We will admit to having been slightly sceptical about this one – do we really need another *King Kong* movie? And aren't we done with shared universes already? Apparently not, but now that's neither here nor there, as the most recent trailer revealed *Kong: Skull Island* to potentially be quite a lot of fun. Starting off by highlighting the fallacy of 'mapping' an island by lobbing bombs at it (what's wrong with taking photographs?), we are introduced to comic highlight John C Reilly and the big ape himself, who it turns out is a benevolent ruler – unless you irk him. Judging by his size, you'd be foolish to do that.

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Donald Glover on becoming the young Lando Calrissian.

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THE GEEK



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MEET THE TEAM

Q. What film or TV show are you most looking forward to in 2017?



Steve Wright
Editor

A. *Star Wars: Episode VIII*
This just about won over *Twin Peaks*. Still a whole bloody year away...



Jonathan Hatfull
Features Editor

A. *American Gods*
My favourite book adapted by the team behind my favourite show. Squee.



Poppy-Jay Palmer
Senior Staff Writer

A. *Annihilation*
Gina Rodriguez and Oscar Isaac in an Alex Garland film? Swoon.



Jon Wells
Art Editor

A. *Thor: Ragnarok*
Great cast, and with Taika taking charge it's hard to not be excited!



Jen Neal
Production Editor

A. *Supergirl The Musical*
I was a fan of (early) *Glee*, so Benoist and Gustin singing – give it to me!

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and unrivalled guide to the
latest genre happenings

CARD PLAYER, GAMBLER, SCOUNDREL... WE LIKE HIM!

WORDS
ADAM
TANSWELL

**Donald Glover on
becoming Lando
Calrissian in the
upcoming Han
Solo spin-off**

While we were expecting the Han Solo anthology film to cast Donald Glover as Lando Calrissian alongside Alden Ehrenreich, we were still absolutely elated when it actually happened. Who would do a better job as the charismatic card-playing scoundrel than Donald Glover? No one, that's who.

Like most of the cast members on the more recent *Star Wars* films, Glover has a history with the franchise. "I'm very honoured, and it's a huge deal for me," he tells us. "There's a meme going around the internet of me in a *Star Wars* T-shirt as a teenager, so this has been a long time coming. For my mum, this is a really big deal, too. I called my mum and my dad when I heard I'd won the role, and she said to me, 'Don't mess this up. This is Billy Dee Williams, and he is really cool.' I take it very seriously."

Living up to Williams' performance is important for Glover, but he also wants to put his own spin on the role. "I feel like any time you try and do an impression of an iconic character, it's going to be





Original star David Naughton gives his thoughts on the proposed remake



The star of *Rogue One* talks growing up with *Star Wars* and more



The stars of the latest holistic detective adap on reimagining Douglas Adams' work



Your guide to the world's best genre book-makers and how they operate

really, bad, and people are going to hate it," Glover says.

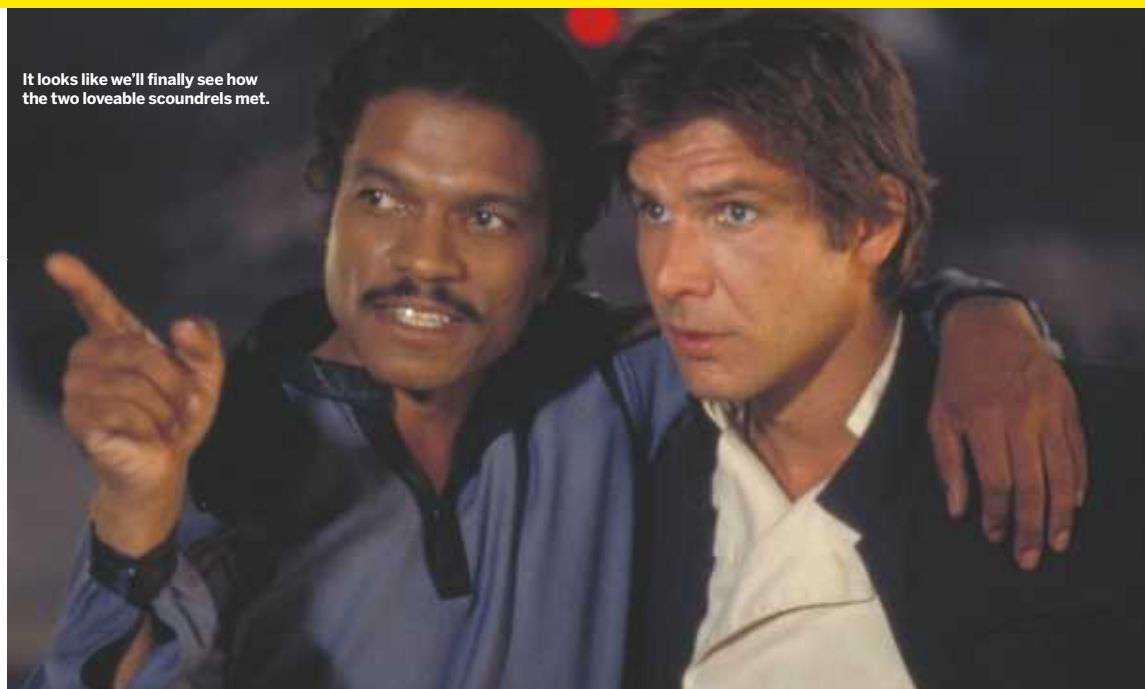
"I think the point of all of this is just to make people believe you, so I just keep thinking about that. I'm not Billy Dee Williams; I am not that cool. I don't think anyone is really, but I just had to make this role believable. I had to do my own 'cool'. I also got my hair pinned back and I grew the moustache, which was cool. I felt very cool with it."

Growing up, Glover's Lando doll was one of the first toys he ever had. "That and the Darth Vader doll," he adds. "My dad gave them to me, and I remember I immediately broke the lightsaber on the Darth Vader, and I lost his cape. I think that happened within the first few hours.

"I remember having this Lando doll, and it was great. My dad was really into *Star Wars*, and it's one of the first movies I remember seeing. *Star Wars* and *Back To The Future*. I think I must have watched them both 100 times, so I take this role really seriously. I think it's cool to be one of the first black guys in space!"

Glover's casting experience was extremely secretive to the point where he still doesn't really know what the film is about. He doesn't even know if the pages he read in his audition had anything to do with it at all. He still felt the pressure, though. "It was scary in the sense that you are only as good as you allow yourself to be," he explains. "I feel like part of acting involves embarrassment, and I like Daniel Day-Lewis, because some of the stuff he does is really embarrassing. The stuff he does; it's supposed to be because those are supposed to be the inklings

It looks like we'll finally see how the two loveable scoundrels met.



of being a human that we don't get to see all the time, so I try to shed being embarrassing and just be honest."

He's also found that he hasn't been able to do anything to physically prepare for his take on Lando. "It's weird, but *Star Wars* makes it hard for you," he tells us. "Everything is super quiet. It's like an owl flies through your window and gives you a script; that's how quiet and confidential it is. We're still at the beginning of the project, so I haven't seen a script."

All Glover knows for sure is that he's going to have to start working out; that's just how these things go. "I've started to eat a little differently, and I'm going on

“WHEN MY MUM HEARD I GOT THE ROLE SHE SAID, ‘DON’T MESS THIS UP, THIS IS BILLY DEE WILLIAMS’”

DONALD GLOVER

hikes a lot more so that I can be in shape," he says. "No more fast-food chicken for me! Luckily, I like hiking. Hiking is fun."

Even this early on, Glover is already being recognised for being Lando Calrissian, alongside his rapper alter ego Childish Gambino, his DJ stage name mcDJ and Troy from *Community*.

"People stop me on the street saying, 'Hey, Lando!'" he enthuses. "The day the news was released, the mother of my child was like, 'Do you want to get high and watch *Star Wars*?' And I was like, 'Yeah!' So I went to pick up a pizza, and I couldn't walk out of the store 'cause people were saying, 'Lando, Lando. Oh my God, Lando!' It changed immediately. It's okay, though. I am already envisioning my little house on the mountainside, far away from everybody when it's all said and done."

The currently untitled Han Solo *Star Wars* Anthology film will be released in cinemas on May 2018.

FOREVER FRIENDS

Han and Lando's friendship, imagined as buddy movies

THE HEIST MOVIE

Desperate to make enough money to open their own flying school, Han and Lando attempt to orchestrate the biggest heist Beshpin has ever seen. But Lando sells Han out after being caught...

THE ROAD TRIP MOVIE

Han and Lando set out on the open hyperlane for the adventure of a lifetime. But when the pair are mistaken for a couple of fugitives and end up in a jail cell, Lando sells Han out for his freedom...

THE FRAT BROS MOVIE

Frat bros and wingmen Han and Lando always have each other's backs when it comes to romance. But when a girl comes between them, Lando sells Han out for one night of passion before graduation...

THE HUSTLER MOVIE

20 years after hustling together, Han and Lando join forces once more for their final con. But after receiving a better offer from their long-time rival known only as DV, Lando sells Han out...



Maybe we'll find out what Han pulled to wind up Lando.

WORDS OLIVER PFEIFFER

Original star David Naughton is feeling positive about the mooted *American Werewolf In London* remake, helmed by Max Landis

WALKING MEAT LOAF

I shook my head and rolled my eyes: 'A remake, really? You want to remake it now?' It's true there's a new generation out there, but why do they need to see a new version of that?"

Back in 2014, when we first spoke to original *An American Werewolf In London* star David Naughton, who played the doomed titular protagonist, David Kessler, it's safe to say that he wasn't overly enthusiastic about the prospects for a remake of John Landis' 1981 genre crossbreed classic. He was equally and justifiably indifferent to the shambolic 1997 sequel, which instead featured Tom Everett Scott and Julie Delpy in the leads.

"We always thought, 'What is a sequel, and how does it qualify as a sequel? Doesn't at least *somebody* have to be in it from both films?' That movie had nothing to do with the other one, and I was quite disappointed by it."

However, when we caught up with the actor again more recently following the



news that the original director's son, Max Landis, would be helming the proposed remake, he had a surprisingly more optimistic viewpoint toward it. "I'm excited about it. It will only keep our film in the minds of so many fans."

What's more, the now 65-year-old actor, who last year guest-starred in the fifth series of *American Horror Story*, wants to be a part of it, and has his own ideas for how he could become involved. "Yes, I want to be in it," he reveals enthusiastically. "Now I could play the worried Dr Hirsch, who was formerly played by the wonderful John Woodvine."

Crucially, Woodvine (along with the equally esteemed Jenny Agutter, who played love interest Nurse Price) helped ground *American Werewolf* in reality. Dr Hirsch goes from sceptical GP to open-minded investigator after he ultimately decides to look into David's claims of a cover-up wolf attack and checks out the infamous pub, The Slaughtered Lamb, where the American tourist and his mate Jack (Griffin Dunne) were warned by locals to "Stay on the road. Keep clear of the moors and beware of the Moon" prior to their fateful and frightful attack.

Naughton is understandably proud of the original film, which balanced horror and comedy that baffled critics at the time, but subsequently set a genre-defying trend. It will certainly be a tough act to follow for any modern reinterpretation despite the interesting family connection.

"I don't think any of us expected to be talking about it 35 years later," he says. "It certainly set a trend, as all the films that followed would have a sort of comedic aspect where either the characters have a sense of humour or the director himself would put some sort of spin on it. In shows like *Buffy The Vampire Slayer*, there was a theme where you always saw comedy and horror."



It remains one of the few films to truly balance comedy and horror.

DBF (Dead Best Friends)

Friendship doesn't always end with death...

JACK GOODMAN
(*An American Werewolf In London*)

Best bros David and Jack were having a laugh until a werewolf killed Jack and David was forced to kill as one, all the while Jack existed in a form of living limbo. Crikey.



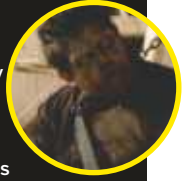
CASPER (Casper)

Kat only met Casper after his death, but the pair still found that they had a lot in common, like living in the same spooky house and being cute but sinister.



ED (Shaun Of The Dead)

Even though his best friend's brain practically turned to mush, Shaun still always found time to play videogames and try not to be eaten by his BFF, Ed.



MARTY DEPOLO (Teen Angel)

A funky six-month-old burger clearly wasn't enough to keep Marty from Steve, not when God's cousin Rod ordered him to become his best friend's guardian angel.



David Naughton is open about returning for a *American Werewolf* remake.





YOU'RE GONNA NEED A BIGGER IMAGINATION

The latest must-haves from LEGO Dimensions

WORDS ABIGAIL CHANDLER

LEGO Dimensions has expanded its vast world with the release of some new expansion packs – some bringing whole new game worlds, and others just giving you fun new characters to play with. We had a chance to test out all the new expansion packs...

Fantastic Beasts And Where To Find Them

This film tie-in Story Pack is the biggest of the new *LEGO Dimensions* expansions. It takes players through the film plot across six new levels, including a Niffler chase through a bank and a trip to the Magical Congress of the United States of America. Players can physically build the MACUSA set, and Newt Scamander and Niffler figures are included. Players can also play as Jacob Kowalski, whose slightly bizarre special power is throwing pies at people.

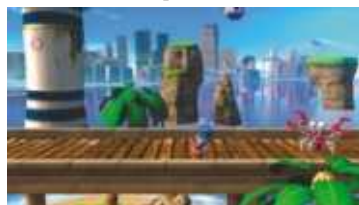
The game is a good mix of puzzles and adventures, some of which we adults are probably guilty of over-thinking. A child could probably waltz through this far quicker than we could.

Sonic the Hedgehog

This Level Pack allows you to travel back to your childhood and access classic (but

LEGO-fied) *Sonic The Hedgehog* levels, including Green Hill and Emerald Coast, while collecting as many Chaos Emeralds as you can. The pack contains a Sonic figure, as well as his Sonic Speedster and The Tornado, both of which can be rebuilt into other vehicles.

As with all packs, golden tag characters such as Sonic unlock new four-player battle arenas, so you can now enjoy multi-player capture the flag or challenge games in a neon, *Tron*-esque *Sonic* world.



Gremlins

The *Gremlins* Team Pack comes with Gizmo and Stripe, the RC Racer car and the Flash 'n' Finish, both of which can be remodelled into other vehicles and objects. Both Gizmo and Stripe will unlock the *Gremlins* battle arenas, which include classic film locations like the cinema and high school.

If you ever needed proof that *LEGO Dimensions* isn't just for kids, the *Gremlins* pack is it. No ten-year-olds are obsessed with *Gremlins* in the same way that children of the Eighties are.

Moreover, long-time *LEGO Dimensions* players

will find that Stripe's vine-cutting abilities come in handy across a number of levels.

ET: The Extra Terrestrial

Another Eighties classic gets the *LEGO Dimensions* treatment with this Fun Pack including ET and, erm, his phone. ET is a useful character to have in the *LEGO Dimensions* world, with Illumination, Fix-It and Stealth abilities, among others. He also unlocks a four-player battle arena based on the film, including the BMX trail and ET's spaceship. Plus, you'll never get bored of watching ET waddle his way around the various improbable *LEGO Dimensions* worlds.

Adventure Time

Following on from the launch of the *Adventure Time* Level Pack comes this Fun Pack, containing Marceline the Vampire Queen and her Lunatic Amp. She has Sonar Smash powers and unlocks an *Adventure Time* battle arena.

LEGO Dimensions is now available for PS4 and PS3 computer entertainment systems, Xbox One, Xbox 360 and the Wii U system.



Fantastic Beasts is the latest film to get the *LEGO Dimensions* treatment.



HOT NEWS
LEGO Dimensions



WORDS POPPY-JAY PALMER

THE NEEDS OF THE MANY

Here's the lowdown on *The Few*

Lifetime superhero enthusiast Sam Benjamin has been waiting to answer the call since he was a kid. "In my seven years as a professional actor, I was expecting a visionary creator to come to me with a gritty British, intriguing character set in a comic-book style world," Benjamin explains. "But the call never came. I began to wonder if it was me who needed to take the initiative and do it myself."

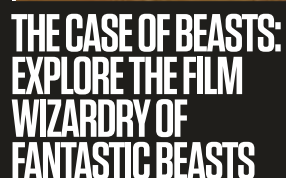
Now, he's the writer, director and star of *The Few*, a British superhero drama series created by Benjamin and Sam Bradford. The series was first conceived when the pair were on their way out of the cinema after seeing *Batman V Superman: Dawn Of Justice*, strangely enough.

"We looked to each other in awe of the visual feast," Benjamin continues. "He said to me, 'I have to direct something in a superhero universe'. I responded, 'I have to be in something that's set in superhero universe'."

"We got talking about what we both could make based on locations we had access to, the little budget we could muster, and the talent... Something that taps into the costumed superhero tradition, but stays grounded in British history and culture. Within a week we had a story arc and characters, and pretty soon after that we had a script for a six-part series."

The Few is set to air in January 2017.





THE ART OF THE FILM: FANTASTIC BEASTS

INSIDE THE MAGIC: THE MAKING OF FANTASTIC BEASTS

Distributor: HarperCollinsPublishers
Website: harpercollins.co.uk **RRP:** £14.99
This behind-the-scenes look at *Fantastic Beasts* is a must-have for fans of the movie. *Inside The Magic* is jam packed with information, juicy titbits and a foreword by Eddie Redmayne.

CHRISTMAS JUMPERS FROM NUMSKULL

**Make your
Christmas a little
geekier this year...**

Christmas jumpers have become something of a fashion trend in recent years, and this year is no different. Ugly Christmas jumpers have been geekified.

Basically, all of your favourite characters, films and TV shows have now been made into warm wearables. Here, we take a look at some of the best from Numskull, super soft and bound to keep you cosy next to the fire while you're under piles of ripped festive paper and a little bit jolly on Bucks Fizz before you have even reached Christmas dinner...

Check out Numskull's full range of Christmas jumpers at www.Numskull.co.uk.



Defuse possible hostile situations with extended family this Christmas with this adorable BB-8-themed jumper. When your great aunt starts interrogating you about why you're still not in a relationship over Christmas dinner, simply excuse yourself to pop on your new winter gear and charm her into submission.



The only thing more magical than a Christmas jumper is a patriotic one. Now you can have both! The jumper's simple design also means that it doesn't strictly have to be worn at Christmas. This is a sweater that looks great both over crackers and turkey – and on the ski slopes a couple of weeks later.



It's almost that special time of year when we gather together, share chimichangas and violently make out with each other around the Christmas tree. This 100 per cent acrylic Merc with a Mouth-inspired jumper looks good on everyone (except that guy), and it's red, so Santa can't see you bleed.



Christmas is sometimes a lonely time of year, especially when you're locked in an underground shelter home to protect yourself from nuclear fallout. But it doesn't have to be! Make friends instantly with this *Fallout*-themed holiday sweater and role-play your way back into January in your Christmas bunker.



Christmas
The Ghosts of *Pac-Man* Past, Present
and Future are coming for you, so
you better suit up. This lovely knitted
Christmas jumper will help you do
just that. Waka waka waka waka?
Waka waka waka waka! Waka waka
waka waka waka waka! WAKA WAKA
WAKA WAKA WAKA WAKA WAKA
WAKA WAKA WAKA!

FIVE THINGS WITH DIEGO LUNA

The *Rogue One* star on joining the Rebellion and getting his own toy

WORDS ADAM TANSWELL

1 The Dark Side

Lifelong *Star Wars* fan Diego Luna couldn't believe it when he landed the role of Cassian Andor in *Rogue One: A Star Wars Story*. "When I was a kid, I was drawn by the Dark Side," the actor admits. "Darth Vader was definitely my favourite character, and my first toy was a Darth Vader doll. That toy became the most important thing in my life. Even the box was a treasure to me. I used to go to school every day with my Darth Vader. I'd sit Darth next to me for class. He was the best companion."

2 A Covert Mission

Not so long ago, in a galaxy not too far away, *Rogue One* was shot in complete secrecy in various locations around the world. "It sounds very exciting to go to the Maldives and Jordan to shoot a movie, but that was just one or two weeks of our time," reveals Luna. "Most of our work happened in Pinewood – and there was a complete lockdown there. No one was allowed on set. When my kids wanted to visit, they had to sign contracts saying they were not going to tell anyone anything. I was like, 'My daughter is six years old. I promise you she won't tell a soul!'"

3 Feel The Force

Star Wars movies are often praised for their tactile sets, and *Rogue One* is no different. "Everyone imagines a film like this being shot next to gigantic blue screens, where you have to imagine everything – but that's not the case," admits Luna. "Our film pays tribute to the first film, so most of the sets were real and the attention to detail is incredible. In the cockpit, you would push a button and a light would turn on. It would make you feel like you were really there. Suddenly, I was part of this world, and the world really existed. It was like a kid's fantasy come true."

4 Robot Wars

Attention to detail wasn't spared on the alien characters either. "The creatures and the droids really blew me away," explains Luna. "They were all there on set, and they were real. They would move and they would talk, and you are standing there going, 'Shit... This is amazing!' I had to pinch myself often on the set of *Rogue One*. I'd say to myself, 'Hey, remember you are being paid for this and you have to pretend you know what you are doing. You can't be a fan. You are now a character in *Star Wars*.'"

5 Join The Rebellion

Working alongside a droid like K-2SO was a memorable experience. "As an actor, it's quite a challenge to build up a special relationship with a droid," he confesses. "But I had a great actor next to me, Alan Tudyk. For our scenes, Alan was dressed in a crazy suit with dots all over it. Plus, he walked on stilts. At times, it was tough to keep a straight face in the midst of all this madness, but it was incredible."

Rogue One: A Star Wars Story is in cinemas now.



SERVE AND DETECT

Dirk Gently is back and in a brave new world: the US

WORDS JONATHAN HATFULL

We tend to be a bit cautious about Douglas Adams adaptations as a rule, partly because his work is so incredibly brilliant, and partly because it's obviously so difficult to get right. Samuel Barnett, who stars in the title role in *Dirk Gently's Holistic Detective Agency*, tells us that he's no stranger to this feeling.

"I was extremely nervous to be taking on a literary figure that people love," the ex-History Boy remembers. "But the response has been phenomenal."

This new take on Adams' beloved crime-solver, who uses rather... unusual methods to solve crimes (because everything is connected), comes from *Chronicle* writer Max Landis, and finds Dirk in America with a reluctant new sidekick in the form of Elijah Wood's recently unemployed Todd Brotzman.

There are also government agents, cops, a four-man anarchist group called the Rowdy 3, and a holistic assassin named Bart (Fiona Dourif). Oh, and a Corgi. In the first episode alone there's at least one dead body,

some gunplay, a machete chase and pizza.

"I was really blown away by it," Barnett enthuses. "The first episode is very full, and you're introduced to a lot of characters, storylines and plot stuff, and every single character could be in their own TV show. It's one of those shows where you come in in the middle of a mystery. It's not like things start out nice and then something happens. Something has already happened, so you're thrown into the middle of it. It's complete chaos, and that's how it should feel. And then as it goes along these seemingly disconnected, disparate characters and plotlines all start to converge."

Executive producer Arvind Ethan David has been a fan of *Dirk Gently* since he adapted the first novel for a school play at the age of 15 – and for a revised version at university, which Adams actually attended – and explains that Landis was the perfect writer to bring the connected chaos of the author to TV. "You can see in his writing that Douglas is an influence," he tells us. "He mashes together hard genres, sci-fi, fantasy and horror with comedy, which Douglas pretty much did first. Douglas said you can mash comedy and science fiction together and come up with something interesting, and Max is very much in that tradition."



Todd is already having a bad day before he meets Dirk.



Todd isn't immediately up for being a sidekick.



Hannah Marks stars as Todd's sister, Amanda.



Elijah Wood and Samuel Barnett (and a Corgi).



Farah Black (Jade Eshete) is a crucial part of the mystery.

“DOUGLAS ADAMS SAID YOU CAN MASH COMEDY AND SCIENCE FICTION TOGETHER AND COME UP WITH SOMETHING INTERESTING”
SAMUEL BARNETT

The casting, too, could not be more perfect. Elijah Wood is impeccable as the bewildered Todd, and Barnett brings Dirk to life beautifully. “Casting was incredibly hard in that we looked at a lot of people, and incredibly easy in that the second that we saw these people we knew that they were the right people,” David explains.

“We were thrown in,” remembers Barnett. “I do remember filming the first scene on the first day and just feeling very insecure and thinking, ‘Oh, is this right? Am I getting the character right?

Is the relationship with Elijah’s character correct? And actually it’s so well written and well structured that I just had this feeling that if I could hold my nerve and trust the script and do each scene as it was written, that when the whole thing was put together it would look congruent, and it absolutely does. Max has created characters where hopefully you totally fall in love with them... and then he really screws them!”

Dirk Gently’s Holistic Detective Agency is on Netflix now.

BART CURLISH: HOLISTIC ASSASSIN

Meet *Dirk Gently’s* scene-stealing psychopath

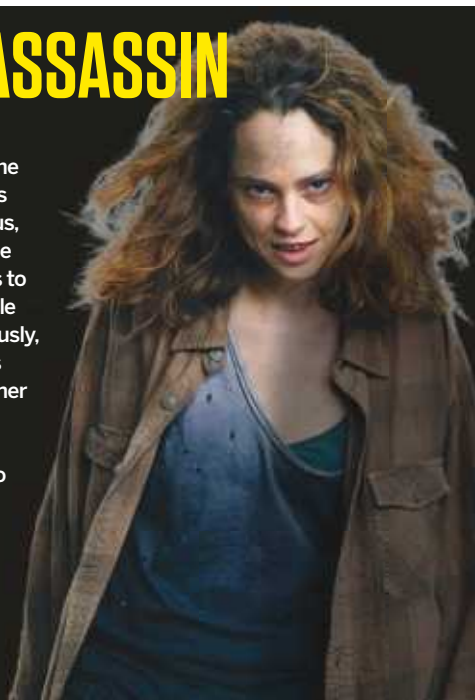
There’s an incredible ensemble of paired characters in *Dirk Gently*, but we can guarantee that one in particular will grab your attention.

“I shouldn’t have favourites, but I do,” laughs Barnett. “It’s Ken and Bart, the holistic assassin and the guy she kidnaps. Bart and Dirk are two universal constants. The way Max describes it is if Dirk is the search key of the universe, Bart is the delete key. Fiona Dourif has just run with what Max has written and created this fully fledged, completely brilliant, weird character that I’ve not seen anything like on TV before.”

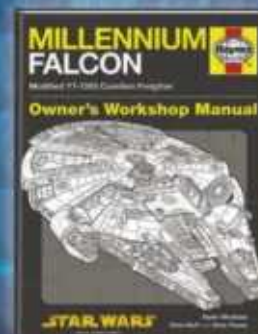
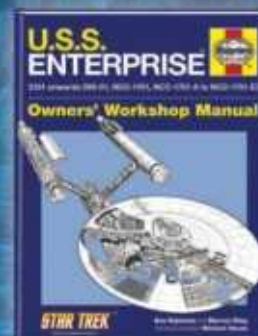
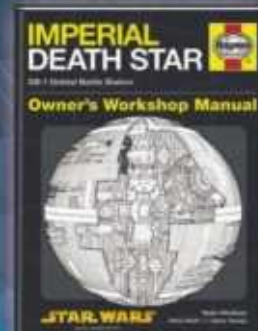
“Bart was the hardest character to cast,” remembers David.

“She’s one part Beetlejuice, one part Jack Nicholson. She’s this extraordinarily dirty, dangerous, homicidal dust mop who at the same time has this sweetness to her. We saw hundreds of people for that part and then ridiculously, Fiona’s been a friend for years and one day we bumped into her in Vancouver. ‘Oh! You should audition! Sorry, we’re idiots!’

She admits to spending two or three days preparing for it, and then she came in. ‘Oh! There’s Bart! Thank you!’ She gets better and better, you won’t believe some of the things that Bart gets up to in this show.”



A WORLD OF
INFORMATION



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This month, we spoke to the cast and crew of *Fantastic Beasts And Where To Find Them*, including Katherine Waterston, Alison Sudol, Dan Fogler, Ezra Miller and director David Yates. While trying not to spill too many secrets, they talk about working with JK Rowling and Newt Scamander's future, while discussing their Hogwarts houses, their favourite wizarding characters, the *Harry Potter* deaths that traumatised them the most, and more.

Elsewhere, we chat to actors Zachary Quinto, Sofia Boutella, Karl Urban and John Cho about *Star Trek Beyond*, while Captain James T Kirk himself Chris Pine takes his shoes off and answers questions while fiddling with his toes. Seriously, you should definitely check that out.

Listen to our spot on/terrible film opinions with our '5 Things You Need To Know About' review series, in which we break down all the year's biggest blockbusters, including *Captain America: Civil War*, *Batman V Superman*, *Deadpool* and more.

Check out the niche corner of our channel and get exclusive behind-the-scenes access to the likes of chilling horror *The Other Side Of The Door* and Netflix's worldwide sci-fi *Sense8*.

We also play host to indie horror previews, including the trailers for Darren Lynn Bousman's mystery *Abattoir*, and Mickey Keating's black-and-white indie horror *Darling*, starring Lauren Ashley Carter.

Log in to YouTube and subscribe today for more exclusive news, interviews and reviews to get excited about!

COSPLAY OF THE MONTH

Send your cosplay to @SciFiNow or Facebook.com/SciFiNow



WOLVERINE

COSPLAYERS: WOLVERSTEVE FROM: LINCOLN PHOTOGRAPHER: NICHOLAS GRAY TWITTER: @WOLVERSTEVE FACEBOOK: /WOLVERSTEVE9

1 THE CHARACTER

I've been a fan of the character for 27 years (I am now 37 years old), and cosplayed many times as Wolverine/Logan over the years before cosplay was even popular here. The yellow suit drew me in as kid, as well as the bad-ass attitude, his signature claws and the 'never say die' way he goes into a fight, no matter how big the foe. Wolverine always wins – in my world, anyway! Even my son is called Logan.

2 THE COSTUME

My suit is based on a realistic version of many costumes Wolverine has had over the years. The main problem was – and still is – surviving wearing it all day at a convention. You could say that it makes you rather warm, hence the tattooed arms coming out since the initial original design that I started with. Many thanks should go to Victoria Potterton for the incredible work bringing my ideas to life.

3 THE DESIGN

Obviously, there have been a lot of different designs to Wolverine's costume over the years. The mask design is loosely based on the alternative ending to *The Wolverine* [released in 2013 starring Hugh Jackman], but tweaked so it was easier to make. The suit was mostly my own design, and has been edited a few times over the years to keep it fresh with numerous different undersuits to have a variation.

4 THE ACCESSORIES

The claws were hand-crafted from plastic resin and joined with a metal hand grip bent to fit my hands and painted to look as metal sharp as possible, but still con-safe. The chest armour is made from motocross armour, but heavily customised with added 'worbla' X, based on some of the other movie suit styles. The mask/cowl is also 'worbla' crafted and lined with felt, but it can still be slightly uncomfortable after eight hours.

HOT TOPICS

Your most-read posts on SciFiNow.co.uk



TOP 10 HARRY POTTER MISSING MOMENTS

tinyurl.com/j8omkxu



YOUNG DUMBLEDORE SET FOR FANTASTIC BEASTS 2

tinyurl.com/px4r92o



ARROW CASTS LEXA DOIG AS TALIA AL GHUL

tinyurl.com/hchs8oh



INDEPENDENCE DAY 2: LONDON EYE HAD TO GO

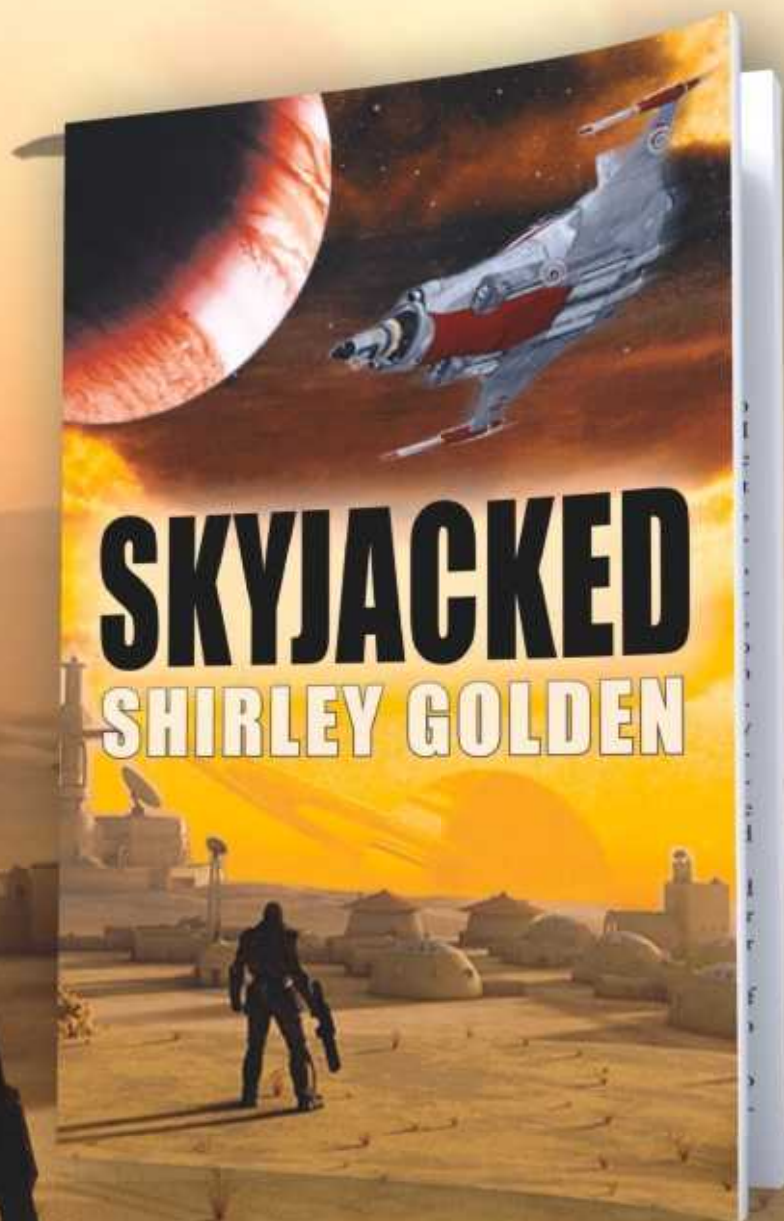
tinyurl.com/j9sc2ab



HOLLAND SAYS SPIDER-MAN IS UP FOR 6 FILMS

tinyurl.com/jeqbgv6

Corvus Ranger is thrown into the ultimate adventure, a star-strewn odyssey where the greatest enemy in the universe may very well be himself....



Skyjacked is available now from Amazon and all good bookshops

WORKS OF FOLIO ART

Folio Society Editorial director Tom Walker on building books to last

Can you tell us a bit about the origins of the Folio Society and your involvement?

Charles Ede founded The Folio Society in 1947 with the ethos that we would publish "editions of the world's great literature, in a format worthy of the contents, at a price within the reach of everyman". Folio very much evolved from the early-20th-century private-press movement and the Morris-inspired Arts and Crafts emphasis on holistic, everyday craftsmanship, the aesthetics of which would match the brilliance of the written word. The first books were printed on old mint presses in what was then Czechoslovakia. Resources were scarce in the UK at that time, and great lengths were gone to achieve a suitable standard.

How do you go about choosing books to be covered by the Folio Society?

We have to feel strongly that the title warrants publication in the Folio list; that it is in some way a canonical or classic work, such as those by Isaac Asimov, Ursula K Le Guin or Arthur C Clarke. The book has

to be of lasting appeal: we make volumes which will last 100 years, and the text has to be able to stand up to that. Ultimately it is of course a deeply subjective decision, but it is one based on years of experience immersing ourselves in a range of titles in any number of categories, and we plan our titles ahead for a number of years. We are also in the immensely fortunate position of being able to ask our readers what they would like to see in a Folio edition.

How do you go about matching illustrators to relevant books?

There can never be one answer to this: selecting and working with illustrators is an art in itself. Every publisher faces this when they come to designing a book cover. For us it is our lifeblood: not only do we select artists to work on our books, we often select books in our programme specifically to allow a certain artist to illustrate them.

Ultimately we are focused on enhancing the reader's experience of a work, and depending on the book itself that may require a decorative, interpretative approach, abstract or narrative approach – there are as many forms as there are books and illustrators. The answer to how we pair a book and artist lies somewhere in the creative dialogue between the editor (who has in mind a vision of what the book currently is and could be) and the art directors, who are incredibly skilful at matching an illustrator to that vision.



Do the authors get involved at all?

That depends on the author. Being published in a Folio edition has been said by Stephen Fry to be "as excellent an accolade as any author can achieve". For some they will simply approve the basic concepts and leave the rest to us; others are deeply involved, from updating and correcting the text to actively working with the art directors and illustrators on how best to interpret their work. Some authors don't want to see their words again once they've submitted their manuscript, while others will want to stay with it and titivate even post publication!

Find out more about the Folio Society at www.foliosociety.com.



Arthur C Clarke's 2001: A Space Odyssey has been given the Folio Society treatment.



DAYS OF FUTURE NOW
Here are some upcoming UK conventions that you can't afford to miss...

Brixton Winter Vegan Festival Memorabilia Auction
18 December
Dogstar, Brixton
veggies.org.uk/events
Price: £1
Live long and go vegan at this sci-fi and fantasy costume party.

TV Utopia
20-22 January 2017
Eynsham Hall, Oxfordshire
fantomfilms.co.uk/events/
TVUtopia2017
Price: £24-£129
Anglophiles and fans of British television can't afford to miss this celebration.

SF Ball 23
3-5 February 2017
Grand Harbour Hotel, Southampton
SFBEvents.com
Price: £5-£80
Head down to this three-day social experience for SF fans everywhere.

Quoi de Neuf
3-5 February 2017
Marks Tey, Colchester
contabile.org.uk/quoideneuf
Price: £5-£36
This celebration of film – a sci-fi and fantasy musical community – is packed with events and fun stuff.

Sci-Feb
5 February
Humber Royal Hotel, Grimsby
tinyurl.com/h4rzad2
Price: £4
Special guests include Joshua Herdman, Martin Ballantyne and the Stay Puft Marshmallow Man.

Conrunner 4
10-12 February 2017
Park Inn, Nottingham
conrunner.co.uk
Price: £45-£50
Learn how to run your very own fan convention with this very meta fan convention event.

MCM Midlands Comic Con
11 February
The International Centre, Telford
mcmcomiccon.com/midlands
Price: £8-£15
It's your standard MCM Comic Con, but in the Midlands. Guests are yet to be announced.

Capital Sci-Fi Con
18-19 February 2017
Meadowbank Sports Centre, Edinburgh
capitalscificon.co.uk
Price: £5-£18
The best thing about this con is that all profits go to the Children's Hospice Association Scotland.

Redemption 17
24-26 February 2017
Royal Victoria Hotel, Sheffield
redemptioncon.org.uk
Price: £15-£70
Get yourself up to Sheffield for this multimedia science fiction convention, held in a gorgeous ballroom.

Digi-Con
25-26 February 2017
Doncaster Deaf Trust
tinyurl.com/h4tk7p
Price: £5-£100
What better way is there to spend a weekend than with all your favourite anime characters?



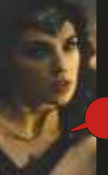
THE GEEK



We talk to the stars and creators of the
**100 most exciting movies, TV shows
and more landing in 2017 and beyond**

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COVER FEATURE

The Geek 100

2018

THE FLASH

DIRECTOR TBC
CAST Ezra Miller, Kiersey Clemons, Billy Crudup
RELEASE 16 March 2018

THE FASTEST MAN alive seemed to be on track, but after *Dope* director Rick Famuyiwa exited the film due to 'creative differences' we've started to worry. However, with a story from *The Lego Movie*'s Christopher Miller and Phil Lord, we're sure someone else will pick it back up.

CYBORG

DIRECTOR TBC **CAST** Ray Fisher
RELEASE TBC

OF ALL THE *Justice League*-related DC Extended Universe films, *Cyborg* is the one that most needs to get its shit together. All we know is that stage actor Ray Fisher will play Victor Stone – there's not even a release date.

WONDER WOMAN

DIRECTOR Patty Jenkins
CAST Gal Gadot, Chris Pine, Connie Nielsen
RELEASE 2 June

AFTER AN ARGUABLY not-so-great start for the DCEU, could *Wonder Woman* be the film to finally raise the bar from knee-height? From the look of the trailers, we think yes. She's already earned her title of 'The Best Thing About *Batman V Superman: Dawn Of Justice*'.

1 DC VS THE UNIVERSE

JUSTICE LEAGUE: THE UNIVERSE'S GREATEST HEROES UNITE

DIRECTOR Zack Snyder **CAST** Ben Affleck, Henry Cavill, Gal Gadot, Ezra Miller, Jason Momoa, Ray Fisher, Ciarán Hinds **RELEASE** 17 November

EAGER TO JUMP onto the success of the likes of *Avengers Assemble*, the DC Extended Universe is getting its gang together for *Justice League*, which will see Batman, Wonder Woman, The Flash, Aquaman and Cyborg team up and serve up some sweet justice on a beautiful silver platter of righteousness.

Though the trailer was serious, shiny and chrome like its predecessors, *Batman V Superman* and *Man Of Steel*, the inclusion of the Flash added a much-needed bit of levity, with him cracking jokes and trying to make friends, while Aquaman gave it that extra helping of awesome, with his surfer hair, cool tattoos and haunting, ghostlike eyes. Cyborg was in it a bit too.

The reason for the team-up, we presume, is to take down the evil Steppenwolf, who is being played by *Game Of Thrones*' Ciarán Hinds. In the

comics, Steppenwolf is the uncle of the evil Darkseid, as well as a faithful member of his Elite. As the military leader of Apokolips and one of the earliest survivors of Doomsday, Steppenwolf is kind of a badass. The *Justice League* is going to have to get up very early in the morning if they are to stand a chance of beating him.

In addition to Henry Cavill, Ben Affleck and Gal Gadot returning for the film, Amy Adams, Jeremy Irons and Jesse Eisenberg are reprising their roles as Lois Lane, Alfred Pennyworth and Lex Luthor. Warner Bros seems adamant on squeezing as much

out of *Justice League* as it possibly can, so that's obviously not the end of the cast list.

JK Simmons has been cast as James Gordon, Willem Dafoe as Atlantis' scientific advisor Nuidis Vulko, Amber Heard as aquatic warrior sorceress Mera, and Kiersey Clemons as Iris West. Julian Lewis Jones will also appear in an unknown role.

With the sheer number of characters involved, *Justice League* has given itself a lot of work to do. But Jeremy Irons said earlier that the film's storyline will be more simple and linear, unlike the hot mess that was *BVS*'s theatrical version. Thank god.

"STEPPEWOLF IS A BADASS. THEY ARE GOING TO HAVE TO GET UP VERY EARLY IN THE MORNING IF THEY ARE TO STAND A CHANCE OF BEATING HIM"





2018

AQUAMAN

DIRECTOR James Wan
CAST Jason Momoa, Amber Heard, Willem Dafoe
RELEASE 27 July 2018

LIKE SEVERAL OTHERS, William Dafoe has defected from Marvel to DC. The ex-Green Goblin joined the cast of *Aquaman* this year as Nuidis Vulko, Atlantis's chief scientific adviser and life-long associate to Aquaman himself. It's unclear whether Vulko will be a villain; the pair are known for their complicated relationship.



ALFRED PENNYWORTH'S GUIDE TO MAKING A GOOD BATMAN FILM

DIRECTOR Ben Affleck **CAST** Ben Affleck, Joe Manganiello **RELEASE** TBC

GET MASTER AFFLECK TO DIRECT MASTER AFFLECK

It's a widely known fact that Master Affleck is on his best form when being directed by himself. If you want to get the most out of Battleck, you need to put the man behind the mask behind the camera.

KEEP THE COSTUMES APPROPRIATE

The outfit is a large key to success. It needs to be suave, but practical, and intimidating, but sensible. It should make the Caped Crusader feel proud to don the cape. It definitely shouldn't have nipples sculpted onto it. Villains never take the

Batman seriously when he permanently looks a little chilly.

GIVE IT AN INTERESTING VILLAIN

A fighter is nothing without their sparring partner. Give Batman someone enigmatic, with true cunning and intelligence. Brawn over brains is often effective, but it doesn't really make for interesting viewing. *True Blood*'s Joe Manganiello will star as Slade Wilson, aka Deathstroke, which is a good start.

HAVE BATMAN ACT THE DETECTIVE

First and foremost, Batman isn't a vigilante; he's a detective. He

likes the thick of the action, but the thick of the investigation shouldn't go amiss. Batman comes when you call him, but he usually already more or less knows what's going on before he reaches the crime scene.

KEEP THE BUDGET MODEST

But not too modest. Think more in terms of *Batman Begins*. The budget for the first of Christopher Nolan's *Dark Knight* trilogy was set at \$150 million – \$100 million less than *Batman V Superman*. Force the crew to come up with creative solutions instead of throwing money at it.



THE GEEK 100

DC Movies



SHAZAM!

DIRECTOR TBC **CAST** Dwayne Johnson
RELEASE 5 April 2019

THE TEAM BEHIND *Shazam!* wanted Dwayne Johnson to play the superhero, but Johnson had his heart set on the role of Black Adam, an antihero in this universe. Other than that, there has been very little movement since last year.



GREEN LANTERN CORPS

DIRECTOR TBC **CAST** TBC
RELEASE 24 July 2020

THE LAST OF the solo films currently lined up for the DC Extended Universe, but almost nothing is known about it. As far as the previous *Green Lantern* film is concerned, the bar isn't set that high, but if Ryan Reynolds can come back from it then maybe the film can.



JUSTICE LEAGUE DARK

DIRECTOR Doug Liman **CAST** TBC
RELEASE TBC

BACK IN 2012, there were rumours that Guillermo del Toro was working on a film based on the Justice League Dark superhero team, and we were all very excited. After a lot of alterations, the project is still going ahead with Warner Bros, but sadly without del Toro in the director's chair.



HARLEY QUINN GOES SOLO

DIRECTOR TBC **CAST** Margot Robbie **RELEASE** TBC

WARNER BROS HAD a lot of faith in *Suicide Squad* – or Harley Quinn, at least – and announced a solo film for the former psychiatrist before *Suicide Squad* was even released. However, almost everyone adored Margot Robbie in the role, so we're just going to go ahead and welcome her solo outing with open but cautious arms.

The most exciting thing about the as yet untitled Harley film is that it's not even going to be just Harley wandering around with her giant mallet, causing havoc. She's going to be leading a team of DC's best and brightest female badasses.

At the time of writing, possible characters haven't really been discussed yet, but Robbie is on board as a very enthusiastic producer (so it's goodbye to the shortest shorts ever), and Christina Hodson (writer of *Transformers* spin-off *Bumblebee*) will be stepping in as writer.





SPIDER-MAN: HOMECOMING COMES SWINGING IN

DIRECTOR Jon Watts **CAST** Tom Holland, Zendaya, Marisa Tomei, Michael Keaton, Robert Downey Jr., Donald Glover **RELEASE** 7 July

WHAT HAS US most excited for *Spider-Man: Homecoming* – even ahead of the fact that it'll be the first Spidey film that's a part of the MCU – is how damn amazing the cast is. Going on the names attached alone, there seems to be no way it could possibly go wrong.

We also have a lot of faith in director Jon Watts, who impressed with his films *Clown* and *Cop Car*, and who also seems to be a genuine, enthusiastic *Spider-Man* fan. "It's a pretty cool universe to be a part of, right?" Watts tells us. "I mean jeez! It's a straight-up high-school movie. It's about a 15-year-old kid... This is the ground level of the Marvel Universe. We know what it's like to be a billionaire playboy inventor, and we know what it's like to be an alien god from another dimension. [Now] we're also going to learn what it's like to just have finished going through puberty and be in tenth grade."

You could say *Homecoming* was the John Hughes film of the MCU. "I mean, wouldn't you really want to tell everyone that you're Spider-Man if you had to keep that secret in high school?" Watts continues. "It would drive me crazy. We tried to capture the spirit of those movies and bring it into this universe. "We've been filming this movie in Atlanta, and it's amazing to bring this character portrayed by this guy – Tom Holland – into the Marvel Cinematic Universe. It wouldn't have been possible without our producing partner on this movie, Amy Pascal, but she is the reason that all of this happened because she knew... Putting everything else aside, here's what's best for the character. Here's what's best for Spidey. Everybody loves Spider-Man."

"WOULDN'T YOU REALLY WANT TO TELL EVERYONE THAT YOU'RE SPIDER-MAN IF YOU HAD TO KEEP THAT SECRET IN HIGH SCHOOL?"



GUARDIANS OF THE GALAXY: VOL 2

DIRECTOR James Gunn **CAST** Chris Pratt, Zoe Saldana, Dave Bautista, Bradley Cooper, Vin Diesel, Kurt Russell, Michael Rooker, Karen Gillan **RELEASE** 28 April

WE'RE SURE WE weren't the only ones to let out a sigh of relief when it was announced that James Gunn would be coming back to the *Guardians Of The Galaxy* world to direct *Vol 2*. After his first crack at it, we can't imagine anyone else knocking it out of the park as well as he did.

However, Gunn has got a lot more on his hands this time round, as the cast list keeps expanding. New players include Elizabeth Debicki as Ayesha, Pom Klementieff as Mantis and Kurt Russell as Ego the Living Planet (who, coincidentally, is also Star-Lord's dad). Sylvester Stallone also seems to be involved in some way if the Internet is to be believed, but we have no idea who he's playing.

MISSING FOR 26 YEARS



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THOR 3: RAGNAROK

DIRECTOR Taika Waititi **CAST** Chris Hemsworth, Tom Hiddleston, Idris Elba, Anthony Hopkins, Mark Ruffalo, Jeff Goldblum, Cate Blanchett, Karl Urban, Tessa Thompson
RELEASE 27 October

THOSE WHO WERE less than impressed with *Thor: The Dark World* got a little bit of their Thor-faith back this year when Marvel put out a brilliant mockumentary-style video, directed by Taika Waititi, showing us what Thor got up to while the rest of the Avengers were picking sides in *Civil War*. If we didn't think Waititi was the perfect directorial choice already then we do now.

The God of Thunder is being joined by some new faces for *Ragnarok*, including Asgardian warriors Valkyrie (Tessa Thompson) and Skurge (Karl Urban), ruler of Hel and Niflheim, Hela (Cate Blanchett), and hedonist Grandmaster (Jeff Goldblum). Oh, and the Hulk (Mark Ruffalo). We have all our fingers crossed for the whole film to be a buddy road trip in which Thor and Banner knock back pints and explore Planet Hulk together.



**ODIN'S HARDWARE
NEW STORE NOW
OFFICIALLY OPEN**

CAPTAIN MARVEL: MEET CAROL

DIRECTOR TBC **CAST** Brie Larson
RELEASE 8 March 2019

CAPTAIN MARVEL IS currently the most frustrating film on the MCU slate, simply because we know very little about it. Here's everything we're sure of: Nicole Perlman and Meg LeFauve are writing the script, the incarnation of Captain Marvel will be Carol Danvers, and Brie Larson is playing her. That's it. Names keep getting thrown around regarding a director, but Marvel has so far failed to get anyone to sign up for the job.



WANTED!

STEVE ROGERS (CAPTAIN AMERICA), SAM WILSON (FALCON), CLINT BARTON (HAWKEYE), SCOTT LANG (ANT-MAN), WANDA MAXIMOFF (SCARLET WITCH)
FOR CRIMES AGAINST THE STATE, CALL 382-578-275 IF SPOTTED

2018



BLACK PANTHER: MEET WAKANDA'S MIGHTY MONARCH

DIRECTOR Ryan Coogler **CAST** Chadwick Boseman, Danai Gurira, Lupita Nyong'o, Forest Whitaker, Michael B Jordan, Daniel Kaluuya, Florence Kasumba **RELEASE** 6 July 2018

AFTER MEETING T'CHALLA in *Captain America: Civil War*, we can't wait to explore his home country of Wakanda, find out more about him, and watch him hand even more foes their arses with super-sharp claws.

"We're trying to make something that people will really enjoy about the world of Wakanda, but we all know what's the coolest part about the world of Wakanda," director Ryan Coogler tells

us. "That's the fact that they have a king. A warrior king that takes care of the protection, and we're fortunate enough to have an incredible actor portraying that king, Chadwick Boseman."

"The glimpse into the character and into Wakanda has been a beautiful, beautiful thing for me," Boseman says. "I cannot wait to unmask more of it for you, and Ryan has some beautiful things in store for us."

ANT MAN AND THE WASP: CUT DOWN TO SIZE

DIRECTOR Peyton Reed
CAST Paul Rudd, Evangeline Lilly, Michael Douglas, Michael Peña
RELEASE 6 July 2018

HOPE VAN DYNE (Evangeline Lilly) is getting a bigger role in the *Ant-Man* sequel, as the film's title suggests. Seeing her own awesome Wasp costume in the post-credits scene gave that away. Van Dyne is teaming up with Scott Lang and Hank Pym for another hilarious mission directed by Peyton Reed. And Michael Peña is also back as Luis too, because he's the best.



2018

SPOTTED: A MAN IN ALL BLACK HAS BEEN SIGHTED IN SEVERAL LOCATIONS AROUND NEW YORK CITY, DANCING LEWDLY AND HARASSING CITIZENS. IF SEEN, CONTACT THE AUTHORITIES IMMEDIATELY. DO NOT APPROACH.

3 NETFLIX MARVEL

THE DEFENDERS

SHOWRUNNERS Doug Petrie, Marco Ramirez **CAST** Charlie Cox, Krysten Ritter, Mike Colter, Finn Jones, Sigourney Weaver **RELEASE** TBC 2017

IT'S TEMPTING TO view *The Defenders* as Netflix's take on *Avengers Assemble*, but that would be ignoring what made Marvel's whole small-screen endeavour such a bumper critical and commercial success story in the first place.

The denizens of the MCU's street level are as flawed and damaged as any heroes we've seen – and according to showrunner Marco Ramirez, that won't be changing just because they're all together; in an interview with *Slash Film* he confirmed that *The Defenders* would still contain "sophisticated character stories," and that it would retain the squabbling family dynamic that characterised the first half of *Avengers Assemble* ("It's just like any other family. They have to fight," says co-showrunner Doug Petrie).

And it's one big family: leads Matt Murdock (Charlie Cox), Jessica Jones (Krysten Ritter), Luke Cage (Mike Colter) and Iron Fist (Danny Rand) will be joined by the likes of Claire

Temple (Rosario Dawson), Colleen Wing (Jessica Henwick), Foggy Nelson (Elsen Henson), Misty Knight (Simone Missick), Elektra (Elodie Yung), Stick (Scott Glenn) and more.

Best of all is the choice of antagonist, with none other than Sigourney Weaver joining in a yet-to-be revealed role. "Sigourney Weaver, what more is there to say?" said Cindy Holland, vice President of original content at Netflix. "She's a formidable actress and we are thrilled to have her." Quite.



IRON FIST

SHOWRUNNER Scott Buck
CAST Finn Jones, Jessica Henwick, David Wenham **RELEASE** 17 March

WHO IS DANNY Rand? It's a question both viewers and Netflix's newest superhero show's own promotional campaign has been asking, but come March 2017 we'll find out for ourselves.

Seeing Finn Jones (*Game Of Thrones*) take on the role of Rand, who returns from an enforced sojourn to New York to reclaim the family business – armed with the mystical martial arts prowess of the Iron Fist – there's more than a hint of the Dark Knight about Marvel's latest Netflix outing.

Even so, it won't be *that* bleak. He'll be younger than the rest of the Defenders, which Marvel exec Jeph Loeb said in an interview with *Collider* would be reflected in the fact that Rand has "a certain kind of optimism and hope about him." Sounds nice.



THE PUNISHER

SHOWRUNNER Steve Lightfoot
CAST Jon Bernthal, Ben Barnes, Jaime Ray Newman **RELEASE** TBC 2017

THE BEST THING about *Daredevil* Season Two, it was no real surprise that Jon Bernthal's Punisher got his own series. Joining him are the likes of Ben Barnes as Jigsaw and Ebon Moss-Bachrach as Microchip, with *Hannibal* writer Steven Lightfoot as showrunner.



JESSICA JONES S2

SHOWRUNNER Melissa Rosenberg
CAST Krysten Ritter, Rachael Taylor, Mike Colter **RELEASE** TBC

PUSHED BACK BY *The Defenders*, showrunner Melissa Rosenberg has nonetheless teased a number of potential developments, like digging more into Jessica's back story, the possibility of Trish Walker (Rachael Taylor) suiting up as Hellcat, and female directors for every episode.





4 MARVEL TV

LEGION: MEET DAVID HALLER, THE SON OF PROFESSOR X

SHOWRUNNER Noah Hawley **CAST** Dan Stevens, Rachel Keller, Aubrey Plaza **RELEASE** 2017

WE HAVE A lot of faith in FX's upcoming Marvel series *Legion* for a few reasons.

Firstly, the cast is great. Ever since we watched mesmerised as Dan Stevens kicked butts and shot people as David in *The Guest*, we've been sort of desperate to see him do something similar again. It started to look very likely when Stevens was cast in the lead role of David Haller, a schizophrenic psychiatric patient who also just happens to be one of the most powerful mutants ever discovered – and the son of Professor X.

Joining him are Aubrey Plaza as David's optimistic friend, Melanie, Rachel

Keller as David's street-smart girlfriend, Syd, and Jemaine Clement in a mystery multi-episode role, among others.

Secondly, we're hyped because it's being helmed by *Fargo* showrunner Noah Hawley, which really is all you need to know. Imagine *Fargo*, but with mutants, explosions and even more fight sequences. The result could well be everything we've ever dreamt of. Thirdly, the trailer looks amazing. It's set in the Eighties, so everything is super retro and, as we said, Noah Hawley is in charge, so it's also gorgeous, stylish and electrifying. What could possibly go wrong?

NEW WARRIORS

SHOWRUNNER TBC **CAST** TBC **RELEASE** TBC

COUNTLESS MARVEL FANS' dreams came true when ABC announced it would be making a show based on the *New Warriors* comics series for one very specific reason: the Unbeatable Squirrel Girl. Whatever antics she gets up to, we are so there with her. The show doesn't yet have a cast, a creator or, well, anything, but we're already on board as long as there's a chance that Doreen Green will make an appearance.



DAMAGE CONTROL

SHOWRUNNER Ben Karlin **CAST** TBC **RELEASE** TBC

THERE HAS BEEN very little movement on *Damage Control*, but we're still excited: based on the Marvel Comics series of the same name, the show is set to explore the lives of a cleaning crew that specialises in dealing with the very messy aftermath that comes with superhero conflicts. It's a hard, thankless job, but someone has to do it. Only showrunner Ben Karlin is involved so far, so it's probably quite a way away.



RUNAWAYS

SHOWRUNNERS Josh Schwartz, Stephanie Savage **CAST** TBC **RELEASE** TBC

GOSSIP GIRL MASTERMINDS Josh Schwartz and Stephanie Savage are teaming up again to bring a show based on the *Runaways*, a superhero group made up of teenagers who discover their parents have all joined an evil crime organisation known as The Pride. Like most of Marvel's in-progress TV ventures, we know very little about it, but we do know that Hulu ordered a pilot episode and full season script back in August.



THE GEEK 100

Marvel TV

5 SEASON 2 SHOWS

OUTCAST **SHOWRUNNER** Chris Black **CAST** Patrick Fugit, Philip Glenister **RELEASE** TBC 2017

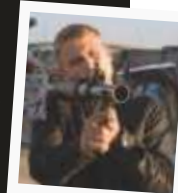
After leaving us with many questions, we'll be welcoming back Robert Kirkman's *Outcast* with open but cautious arms. However, it looks like it might be delayed due to Kirkman's *Walking Dead* commitments.



SENSE8

SHOWRUNNERS Lana Wachowski, J Michael Straczynski **CAST** Jamie Clayton, Miguel Ángel Silvestre **RELEASE** TBC

Sense8 is adding Brazil, Malta and the Netherlands to its impressive list of filming locations in Season Two, and it is getting a Christmas special as well.



SHADOWHUNTERS

SHOWRUNNERS Todd Slavkin, Darren Swimmer **CAST** Katherine McNamara, Dominic Sherwood **RELEASE** 3 JANUARY

After a divisive first season, everyone who stuck around long enough to see it go from 'rubbish' to 'addictive' should start preparing for Season Two. We mainly only care about Malec, though.



SHANNARA CHRONICLES

SHOWRUNNERS Alfred Gough, Miles Millar **CAST** Austin Butler, Ivana Baquero **RELEASE** TBC 2017

We can expect things in Season Two to get dramatic quickly, what with Season One ending with Eretria getting captured and Amberle turning into a tree. Here's to hoping it all resolves itself.



STAN LEE'S LUCKY MAN

CREATORS Stan Lee, Richard Fell, Gareth Neame **CAST** James Nesbitt, Eve Best **RELEASE** TBC 2017

DI Clayton continues to deal with his outrageous luck and inner turmoil in *Lucky Man*. It pulled in quite the following when Season One became the most-watched Sky1 show on NOW TV.





6 NETFLIX TV

A SERIES OF UNFORTUNATE EVENTS

LEMONY SNICKET ACTOR PATRICK WARBURTON TALKS FORTUNATE EVENTS...

SHOWRUNNER Mark Hudis **CAST** Neil Patrick Harris, Patrick Warburton, Joan Cusack **RELEASE** 13 January



How did you end up getting involved with *A Series Of Unfortunate Events*?

It was one of the most fantastic work experiences I've ever had: to get to spend five months in Vancouver during spring and summer, and to get to work with [director] Barry Sonnenfeld and [writer] Daniel Handler and this amazing cast on this amazing project. It started with a text that I got from Barry: "Patrick, can you come up to Vancouver for five months for my Netflix series?" That's how things work these days. "Barry, sure. Let's see if we can work this out."

Had you read the books before you got involved in the project?

I wasn't terribly up to speed on the material, but it seemed intriguing to me. I have four kids that never read the books because the moment they found out that both parents died in a house fire, it became too depressing and tragic for



them to ever pick up a book. I guess that's wonderful in a way, that our kids couldn't imagine something as horrible as their parents dying. I have such an ego; I think we must be great parents.

How does the show keep that balance of being both entertaining and unbelievably tragic?

There's a light at the end of the tunnel with these stories. Nothing can trump the imagination. [Handler and Sonnenfeld] took many things into account. Barry's

such a creative filmmaker that they were able to capture the darkness, the despair, the misery and the creepiness, but also keep it humorous and fun. It's entertaining to watch, but also authentic to the books.

Do you enjoy this sub-genre of family fairy tales with creepy twists?

I like it because it's complex, it's a story and a journey, and it's compelling and fun to watch. [With *ASOUE*] you have three kids that are very bright, they're intelligent and they manage their way out of horrible situations against insurmountable odds. They're surrounded by well-meaning adults who can't see the forest for the trees. They can't see what's right in front of them, but the kids see it. It's a great story for any young people that are dealing with things that seem insurmountable.

As the narrator, Lemony Snicket, what kind of role do you play in the show?

There's no interaction [with the other characters] whatsoever, but Lemony's not a detached narrator. He's a part of these lives.

Has he ever actually met the Baudelaire children? We don't know. We know that he hates Olaf. He believes that Olaf is just a terrible actor. They were in an acting troupe together years ago, and I'm sure that Lemony saw Olaf do some just horrible scene work.



7 EXIT TO NOWHERE: THE SHOWS WE'LL BE SAYING GOODBYE TO

THE VAMPIRE DIARIES
CREATORS Kevin Williamson, Julie Plec
CAST Paul Wesley, Ian Somerhalder, Kat Graham **SEASON 8**

There's only one thing on our minds when it comes to *The Vampire Diaries*' finale: is Nina Dobrev coming back? Creator Julie Plec hasn't confirmed her involvement, but it makes sense to end with Elena.



TEEN WOLF
CREATOR Jeff Davis
CAST Tyler Posey, Dylan O'Brien, Holland Roden, Shelley Hennig **SEASON 6**

Teen Wolf is down to its final few cast members for the sixth and final season, but actor Dylan O'Brien's real-life hospitalisation last year means that even mainstay Stiles won't be around for a lot of it.



BATES MOTEL
CREATORS Carlton Cuse, Kerry Ehrin, Anthony Cipriano **CAST** Vera Farmiga, Freddie Highmore, Rihanna **SEASON 5**

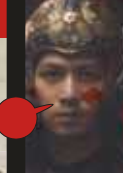
Rihanna being cast as Marion Crane suggests that *Bates Motel* has almost caught up with the *Psycho* storyline. We thought things couldn't possibly get any weirder, but we're often proven wrong when it comes to Norman Bates.



GRIMM
CREATORS David Greenwalt, Jim Kouf, Stephen Carpenter **CAST** David Giuntoli, Russell Hornsby **SEASON 6**

Grimm may finally be coming to an end, but it might not actually be the end-end. Rumours of a spin-off series revolving around Trubel (Jacqueline Toboni) are currently floating about, which could be a lot of fun.





ALTERED CARBON

SHOWRUNNER Laeta Kalogridis
CAST Joel Kinnaman, Renée Elise Goldsberry, James Purefoy
RELEASE TBC 2017

IT CAN BE considered a surprise that despite all the quality genre adaptations we've had, cyberpunk hasn't been represented. This could all be about to change, however, as Richard K Morgan's cult sci-fi novel *Altered Carbon* is getting the Netflix treatment.

Taking place in a world where people can download consciousness into different bodies – known as 'sleeves' – Joel Kinnaman (below) takes the lead as Takeshi Kovacs, a dangerous-to-know soldier-turned-mercenary who quickly becomes embroiled in the main narrative.

Netflix certainly hasn't been lacking on the ambition front, and this will prove a test of their mettle – it won't come cheap. Creator Laeta Kalogridis' credits have ranged from the great (*Shutter Island*) to the not so much (*Bionic Woman*, *Terminator Genisys*), so this could go anywhere.



© Sandra Birgersdotter

ORPHAN BLACK

CREATORS Graeme Manson, John Fawcett
CAST Tatiana Maslany, Jordan Gavaris, Maria Doyle Kennedy **SEASON** 5

Will Sarah get to the centre of the clone conspiracy? Will Cosima overcome her illness? Will Helena finally find a husband worthy of her? Will Rachel stop being such a dick? Damn it, we just don't know!



MONSTERS UNLEASHED

8 KONG: SKULL ISLAND

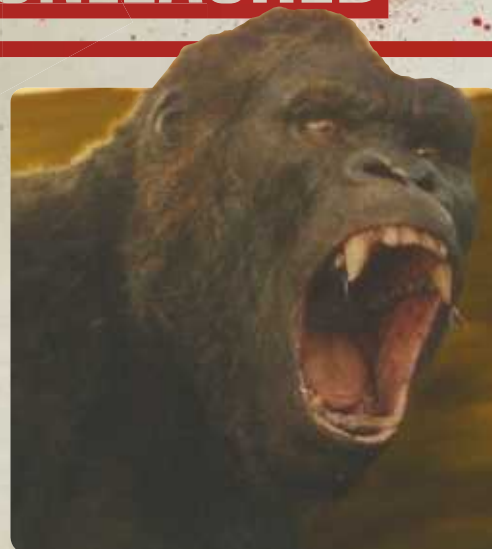
DIRECTOR Jordan Vogt-Roberts **CAST** Brie Larson, Tom Hiddleston, Samuel L. Jackson **RELEASE** 10 March

GET READY TO return to Skull Island, although hardy travellers should be warned – it's not how you'll remember it.

For one, the King of the Apes is substantially larger this time around. As evidenced by the first trailer, he has clearly been eating his greens in anticipation of his inevitable big-screen showdown with his lizard counterpart.

Speaking of Godzilla, recent tie-in marketing material has confirmed the presence of Monarch, an organisation from the first movie, shedding some light on the potential crossover between the two. We bet there'll be fireworks.

Combine this with a cast that includes Brie Larson, Tom Hiddleston, Samuel L. Jackson and John Goodman, and this is one monster mash-up you won't want to miss.



9 GODZILLA 2

DIRECTOR Michael Dougherty
CAST TBC **RELEASE** 22 March 2019

WHILE ORIGINAL DIRECTOR Gareth Edwards won't be returning for the sequel, we can at least rest assured that *Krampus* duo Michael Dougherty and Zach Shields are on writing duties. Their Christmas chiller was intimate and terrifying, and we're expecting more of the same in the build-up to *Kong Vs Godzilla*.



2019

10 PACIFIC RIM: MAELSTROM

DIRECTOR Steven S DeKnight
CAST John Boyega
RELEASE 23 February 2018

STEVEN S DEKNIGHT will be replacing Guillermo del Toro as director, and Charlie Hunnam and Rinko Kikuchi's returns look increasingly unlikely. Instead, John Boyega is combining his starring role as the son of Idris Elba's Stacker Pentecost with producing duties.



©twitter.com/JohnBoyega

2018

11 THE GREAT WALL

DIRECTOR Yimou Zhang **CAST** Matt Damon, Pedro Pascal, Tian Jing **RELEASE** 17 February

THE GREAT WALL of China seemingly had an ulterior motive: to keep out an unending horde of CGI monsters. Seems like a pretty big omission from the history books.

Yet the talking point has been the casting of Matt Damon – leading to accusations of whitewashing for putting a white actor as the lead in an Asian film.

Director Yimou Zhang has leapt to the film's defence, pointing out that this is one of the biggest Chinese film productions in history, and that Damon is the only non-Asian actor out of the film's main heroes. He has a point, but it doesn't change the fact that he's the one at the front and centre on most of the film's marketing material.

Nonetheless, there's definitely hope for this. Yimou was responsible for the brilliant *House Of Flying Daggers*, Damon's presence inspires confidence, and the rest of the cast is strong, with Tian Jing in particular counting this among a number of big upcoming roles.



12 IN A GALAXY FAR, FAR, AWAY...



EPISODE VIII 6 THINGS WE WANT TO SEE MORE OF OUR WISH LIST FOR THE FORCE AWAKENS' SEQUEL

DIRECTOR Rian Johnson **CAST** Mark Hamill, Daisy Ridley, John Boyega **RELEASE** 15 December 2017

LUKE GOING FULL SAMURAI

1 A highlight of *Return Of The Jedi* was Luke laying waste to Jabba's minions. By this point he will be even more powerful – and what better way to highlight this by showing him demonstrating what he can do on some unfortunate Dark-siders.



BRING BACK PHASMA

2 Despite JJ Abrams claiming she was one of his favourite characters, she wasn't in *The Force Awakens* anywhere near as much as we were led to believe. Give her more time to demonstrate why she's in a position of power – maybe in the form of a not-so-happy reunion with Finn.



DISCOVER WHO REY REALLY IS

3 It has been confirmed that we will discover her parentage in *Episode VIII*. Abrams said in an interview that Takodama marked the first time she and Kylo Ren had met, which appears to rule out Han and Leia, but maybe he just didn't know.



POE CHANNELLING HAN SOLO

4 Our biggest worry is just how much of a loss Harrison Ford is going to be. As a talented yet loose-cannon pilot, Poe Dameron is the closest thing we have to a

new Han Solo. With more screen time and a storyline that sees him interact with the cast person to person, he could really stand out.



NO SNOKE WITHOUT FIRE

5 Literally a shadowy presence, there's a good chance we'll see more of him, what with Kylo Ren being sent off to see him at the end of *The Force Awakens*. Chuck Wendig's *Aftermath* books are dropping a few clues to his identity, but we're sure that the big reveal will be saved for the big screen.

LET CHEWIE AND MAZ GET TOGETHER

6 Chewie's lost Han, and Maz's castle has been destroyed. They're both in need of a pick-me-up, and who better than each other?

HAN SOLO The core components of the scoundrel's Star Wars spin-off

DIRECTORS Phil Lord, Christopher Miller **CAST** Alden Ehrenreich, Donald Glover, Emilia Clarke **RELEASE** TBC 2018

THE LEGENDARY SMUGGLER, scoundrel and hero of the Rebellion may be sadly deceased, but we haven't seen the last of him. Casting aside, specific story details regarding the Han Solo spin-off are thin on the ground, although Lucasfilm's Kathleen Kennedy confirmed in an interview with *Variety* that it would have a "heist or Western type feel". Bearing this in mind, here's what we're hoping for from the second *Star Wars* anthology movie...

2018

RESOURCEFULNESS

With the Empire about, the galaxy is a dangerous place for smugglers, but Han manages to stay alive. It'd be nice to see run-ins with the likes of Jabba the Hutt and Boba Fett. Furthermore, since we now know that he and Maz Kanata have a history, could we see a surprise cameo from Lupita Nyong'o? Let it be so.

ORIGINS

In the Expanded Universe he's an orphan working for a notorious pirate, while in a deleted scene from *Revenge Of The Sith* he's raised by wookiees on Kashyyyk. We don't think it'll be either here.

LOVE INTEREST

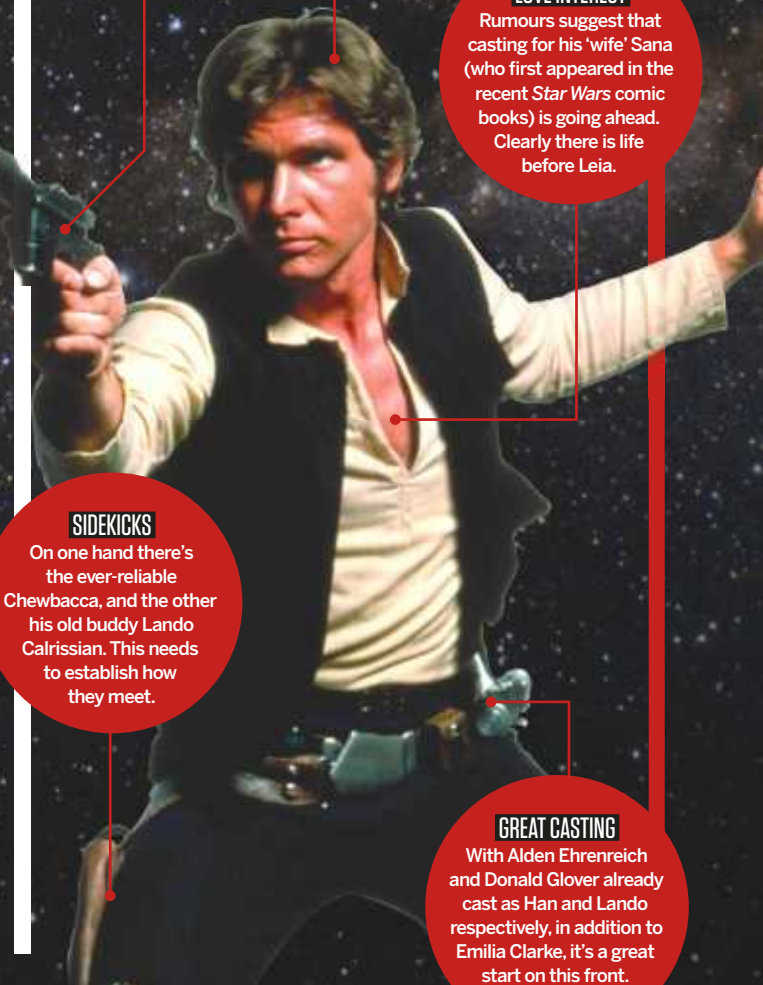
Rumours suggest that casting for his 'wife' Sana (who first appeared in the recent *Star Wars* comic books) is going ahead. Clearly there is life before Leia.

SIDEKICKS

On one hand there's the ever-reliable Chewbacca, and the other his old buddy Lando Calrissian. This needs to establish how they meet.

GREAT CASTING

With Alden Ehrenreich and Donald Glover already cast as Han and Lando respectively, in addition to Emilia Clarke, it's a great start on this front.





14 DISNEY MOVIES SCREEN TO SCREEN

BEAUTY AND THE BEAST

DIRECTOR Bill Condon
CAST Emma Watson, Dan Stevens, Luke Evans **RELEASE** 17 March

IT'S A TALE as old as time, so *Beauty And The Beast* is obviously due a remake every couple of years. From the trailer, it looks like Disney's latest version of the story is going to be more or less the same as the animated original à la 2015's *Cinderella*, only in live action – or as much as you can get when most of the characters are sentient pieces of furniture. It's also definitely going to be a musical, so there's that.

A WRINKLE IN TIME

DIRECTOR Ava DuVernay
CAST Chris Pine, Gugu Mbatha-Raw, Reese Witherspoon, Mindy Kaling
RELEASE 6 April 2018

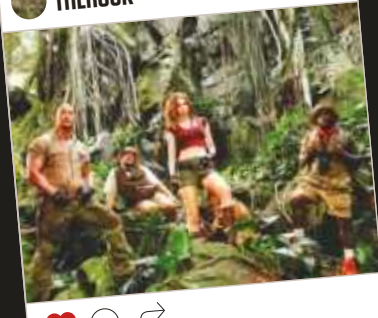
LIKE 2016'S *PETE'S Dragon*, *A Wrinkle In Time* is continuing the trend of adapting live-action Disney films hardly anyone has seen (in this case a 2003 TV movie) and making them even better. *Selma* director Ava DuVernay is taking on the fantasy, based on the novel of the same name by Madeleine L'Engle, and bringing in a rather impressive cast made up of the likes of Mindy Kaling, Oprah Winfrey, Michael Peña and Zach Galifianakis among quite a few others.

MARY POPPINS RETURNS

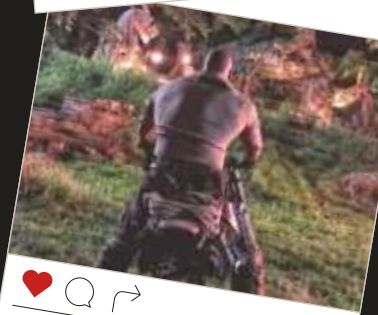
DIRECTOR Rob Marshall
CAST Emily Blunt, Lin-Manuel Miranda, Meryl Streep, Colin Firth
RELEASE 25 December 2018

SET 20 YEARS after the original, this sequel brings the nanny, played by Emily Blunt, back to Jane and Michael Banks (Emily Mortimer and Ben Whishaw respectively) after they experience a personal loss. Also cast are Meryl Streep as Poppins' cousin Topsy, Colin Firth as the president of the Fidelity Fiduciary Bank, and Lin-Manuel Miranda as Jack, Poppins' street lamplighter friend.

THE ROCK



Jack Black, Karen Gillan and Kevin Hart are joining The Rock in *Jumanji*.



The Rock ought to wow us as always as Dr Smolder Bravestone. Phwoar.

13 JUMANJI

DIRECTOR Jake Kasdan
CAST Dwayne Johnson, Kevin Hart, Karen Gillan, Jack Black **RELEASE** 29 December 2017
A couple of years ago, we would have argued that a *Jumanji* sequel some 20 years after the original was entirely unnecessary. We have now been silenced by our utter excitement that the Rock is not only starring in it, but that his character is an explorer called Dr Smolder Bravestone. Top name game.

THE ROCK



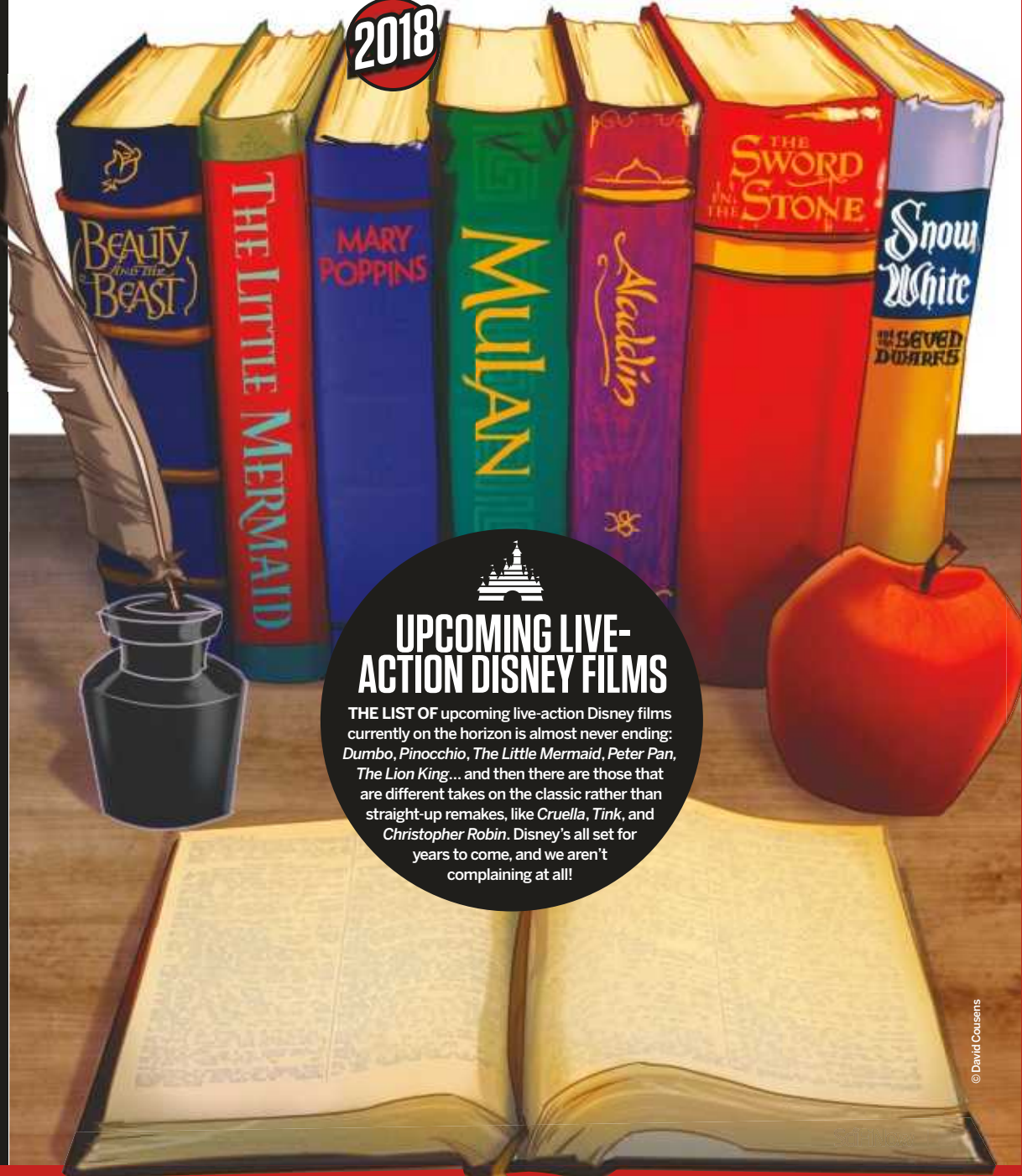
The *Jumanji* sequel is being shot in the Hawaiian wilderness.

THE ROCK



The Rock has promised Gillan's tiny outfit will make sense with the film's plot.

2018



UPCOMING LIVE-ACTION DISNEY FILMS

THE LIST OF upcoming live-action Disney films currently on the horizon is almost never ending: *Dumbo*, *Pinocchio*, *The Little Mermaid*, *Peter Pan*, *The Lion King*... and then there are those that are different takes on the classic rather than straight-up remakes, like *Cruella*, *Tink*, and *Christopher Robin*. Disney's all set for years to come, and we aren't complaining at all!



COVER FEATURE

The Geek 100

15 I KILL GIANTS

DIRECTOR Anders Walter **CAST** Zoe Saldana, Imogen Poots, Madison Wolfe **RELEASE** TBC

FANS OF JOE Kelly and JM Ken Niimura's *I Kill Giants* comics should be thrilled to know that Kelly himself is writing the screenplay for the film adaptation. A social misfit with few friends and an obsession with *Dungeons & Dragons*, heroine Barbara Thorson (Madison Wolfe) often escapes the mundanity of our world in favour of her fantasy life, where she takes a lead role in attempting to stop the giants that she's convinced are very much dead set on coming to get us.



16 MAZE RUNNER: THE DEATH CURE

DIRECTOR Wes Ball **CAST** Dylan O'Brien, Kaya Scodelario, Thomas Brodie-Sangster, Ki Hong Lee **RELEASE** 12 January 2018

IN A SOMEWHAT unusual turn of events, the final book in James Dashner's *Maze Runner* series *isn't* being split into two films. But in an even more unusual turn of events, filming was delayed for almost a year when star Dylan O'Brien ended up in hospital after sustaining pretty substantial injuries while on set. No one really knows what happened exactly, but 20th Century Fox was eager for its leading man to make a full recovery before even thinking about coming back to work.



Boyd Holbrook as cyborg Reaver Donald Pierce.



Wolverine's (Hugh Jackman) healing factor isn't working like it used to.



Logan with Laura – more familiar to fans of the comics as X-23.

17 LOGAN

DIRECTOR James Mangold **CAST** Hugh Jackman, Dafne Keen, Boyd Holbrook, Patrick Stewart **RELEASE** 2 March

AS ARGUABLY ONE of the most popular Wolverine storylines of recent times, it's about time *Old Man Logan* got some big-screen love. It only made sense that it would be Hugh Jackman's last outing as Logan before he hangs up the adamantium claws for good.

From the trailer, it looks as though Logan is going through a lot more inner emotional turmoil than usual. The fact that the film is rated 'R' pretty much guarantees that some traumatic shit is going to happen. The tears, blood and graveyard in the trailer signal that the angst dial has been turned up to 11.

A lot of that extra angst could span from the inclusion of Logan's clone-daughter X-23, who is being played by 11-year-old Dafne Keen. In the comics, X-23 (aka Laura Kinney) was cloned from a damaged copy of Wolverine's genome and created to be the perfect

killing machine. Like her 'father', she has a regenerative healing factor and superhuman strength, senses, speed and reflexes, and retractable adamantium-coated bone claws in her hands and feet. But seeing as the film is presenting us with a small child, something deeply upsetting is bound to happen.

Logan is going to be accompanied by new friends and foes, including scavenger Caliban (played by Stephen Merchant), who has the ability to psionically sense the presence of other mutants within a 25-mile radius, and Donald Pierce (Boyd Holbrook), a human with advanced cybernetic components, giving him superhuman strength, reflexes and agility. Patrick Stewart is also back as Charles Xavier, but seeing as *Logan* takes place in the future, there's nothing stopping him from popping his clogs before it's over.

After the excellent first movie, Deadpool is back!

18 DEADPOOL 2

DIRECTOR David Leitch **CAST** Ryan Reynolds **RELEASE** 2 March 2018

FOX IS GOING to need to deliver something big to follow *Deadpool*, but *Deadpool 2*'s production has been a bit of a mess so far. We think most of us can agree that Tim Miller killed it in *Deadpool*'s director's chair. We were buzzing to see what he would do with Cable in the sequel, but unfortunately it wasn't to be; Miller recently exited the production, citing creative differences with star Ryan Reynolds.

Apparently, Miller wasn't happy with the tone and style that was laid out, so decided to walk instead of sticking around to direct something his heart wasn't really in. Subsequently, composer Junkie XL also departed, saying that *Deadpool* without Miller just doesn't sit right with him. However, things are slowly getting back on track. Uncredited *John Wick* co-director David Leitch has already been picked as Miller's replacement.

Although *Deadpool 2* has a tentative release date, not much is known about the film's plot or subject matter, besides the fact that Marvel mainstays

Cable and Domino are probably going to be in it. Speaking of the latter, now that the character of Deadpool has been established, it makes sense to bring his buddy into the mix. According to some sources, Cable's casting was another factor that caused Miller to quit the franchise. He was keen on Kyle Chandler taking the role, but Reynolds wasn't as enthusiastic, and so the studio ultimately backed his decision over Miller's.

Anyway, whatever happens we're still psyched, particularly for Cable. Also known as Nathan Christopher Charles Summers, Cable is the time-travelling son of Cyclops and Jean Grey's clone Madelyne Pryor, with telepathy, telekinesis, technopathy and excellent marksmanship among his list of skills. After seeing what the future could be, he travelled back to Deadpool's time to make the future world a better place.

LOGAN SPIRATIONS

The likely inspirations behind the film

LONE WOLF AND CUB: SWORD OF VENGEANCE (1972)

Logan's relationship with Laura Kinney (also known as X-23) could mirror that of master swordsman Ogami Itto and his tiny son Ogami Daigoro. We can see them wandering around the countryside looking for adventures.

MAD MAX (1979)

The post-apocalyptic vibes are strong in the *Logan* trailer. Sand tones and dirt really put us in the mind of every *Mad Max* film, as well as the end of the world, which is quite fitting seeing as *Logan* marks the end of the Wolverine-movie era.

UNFORGIVEN (1992)

The Wolverine was styled up like a Japanese action film. *Logan* is a flat-out Western. He's like an old gunslinger coming out to do one last good job with the help of an old friend before he packs it in for good.



As yet, we're not sure whether Morena Baccarin will return alongside Ryan Reynolds.



Currently, casting is ongoing for Nathan Summers, aka Cable.



19 RESIDENT EVIL: THE FINAL CHAPTER

DIRECTOR Paul WS Anderson **CAST** Milla Jovovich, Shawn Roberts, Ali Larter, Ruby Rose **RELEASE** 3 February

WHILE THIS WON'T feature the White House last stand that we were apparently promised at the end of *Retribution*, the stage will be set for the finale nonetheless, with the forces of Umbrella converging on the last remnants of humanity, including among them the perennial survivor Alice (Milla Jovovich) and the also-making-a-comeback Claire Redfield (Ali Larter). Expect plenty more of what we've come to expect from the films: slow-mo kick-ass action, monsters being dispatched, and Jovovich being brilliant.

20 READY PLAYER ONE

DIRECTOR Steven Spielberg **CAST** Tye Sheridan, Olivia Cooke, Ben Mendelsohn, Mark Rylance **RELEASE** 30 March 2018

ANYONE WHO HAS read Ernest Cline's excellent dystopian novel may wonder – like us – exactly how this film will accommodate the thousands of assorted pop-culture references that fill its pages, but with Steven Spielberg in the director's chair it has a fighting chance. Pair this with an excellent cast (Tye Sheridan, Olivia Cooke, Ben Mendelsohn, Mark Rylance, Simon Pegg and TJ Miller are all confirmed), and the fact that it has all the director's hallmarks (like kids in peril, and a journey of wonder), and this could be something special. Game on.

GAME ON!

1P

2P

21 TOMB RAIDER

DIRECTOR Roar Uthaug **CAST** Alicia Vikander **RELEASE** 16 March 2018

MUCH AS THE videogames have been born anew, so too is the case for the film franchise, which looks to draw a line under the over-the-top action heroics of Angelina Jolie's take on the character. Here, Alicia Vikander's younger Lara Croft is far closer to the recent videogames' version of her, portraying her as a young archaeologist forced into a desperate battle for survival after heading out on her first assignment. Producer Graham King confirmed this kind of tone in an interview with *Hey U Guys*, saying that this will see her in a "back to the roots" story.

22 UNCHARTED

DIRECTOR Shawn Levy **CAST** TBC **RELEASE** TBC

VIDEOGAME MOVIES AND development hell seem to have made for unwilling bedroom companions, with *Uncharted* languishing in this unhappy ménage-a-deux for eight years now. Finally, an end appears to be in sight, with Shawn Levy (*Night At The Museum*) confirmed to direct, and Joe Carnahan (*The A-Team*) working on the script. Filming is reportedly set to start sometime in 2017, and conversations for the casting of young Indy-alike Nathan Drake are ongoing, with Levy confirming that he is in discussions with Sony "about who feels right." Surely it has to be Chris Pratt?

23 WRECK-IT RALPH 2

DIRECTOR Rich Moore **CAST** John C Reilly, Sarah Silverman **RELEASE** 23 March 2018

A KEY COMPONENT of Disney's 21st century creative resurgence has been the willingness of films like *Wreck-It Ralph* to play Pixar at its own game and win, which is why we're so happy to see that a sequel featuring cinema's most lovable unwilling bad guy has been green lit. Indeed, the House of Mouse seems determined to replicate the winning formula they bottled the first time round: John C Reilly and Sarah Silverman are returning as Ralph and Vanellope respectively, and Rich Moore is back in the director's chair, this time joined by the previous film's co-scribe, Phil Johnston.



24 THE DARK TOWER ...AND THE GUNSLINGER FOLLOWED

DIRECTOR Nikolaj Arcel **CAST** Idris Elba, Matthew McConaughey, Abbey Lee, Katheryn Winnick, Jackie Earle Haley **RELEASE** 28 July 2017

AFTER YEARS AND years of waiting for someone, anyone, to adapt Stephen King's epic saga for the big screen, we now have to wait just a little bit longer to see the Gunslinger chase the Man In Black across the desert.

While the phrase 'pushed back' is normally enough to give us the fear, the reasoning behind it seems sound (more time to work on effects, more time to work on a marketing campaign), and god damn it, we can't wait to see Idris Elba and Matthew McConaughey in the roles of Roland Deschain and Randall Flagg (sorry, that's Walter Padick).

For the uninitiated, King's novels are a dimension and time-hopping fantasy, a tale of good and evil that has cowboys, vampires, magic, addicts and redemption in which Roland relentlessly chases ancient evil sorcerer Padick to stop him from reaching The Dark Tower first. However, being uninitiated may not be too much of a hindrance, as it looks like this will be a relatively fresh take on the novel, as King told *EW* that it starts "in media res, in the middle of the story instead of at the beginning."

The movie also stars Tom Taylor as young Jake Chambers, who is vital to

Roland's journey; *Fury Road*'s Abbey Lee as Tirana (a minor character in the novels who may be changed somewhat for the film), *Age Of Ultron*'s Claudia Kim as Arra Champignon, *Vikings*' Katheryn Winnick as Jake's mother Laurie, and genre veteran Jackie Earle Haley as vampire Sayre.

It's been such a long road to the big screen for *The Dark Tower*. We've waited impatiently through the JJ Abrams/Damon Lindelof years, the Ron Howard years (which was on the brink of happening with Javier Bardem as Roland), and we just honestly can't wait to see what a *Dark Tower* movie looks like. Bring on the chase.



26 ALITA: BATTLE ANGEL

DIRECTOR Robert Rodriguez **CAST** Rosa Salazar, Christoph Waltz, Jackie Earle Haley, Mahershala Ali **RELEASE** 20 July 2018

AMNESIAC CYBORG SOLDIERS

are pretty awesome, so it's not surprising that James Cameron has held onto the dream of making a live-action film of *Battle Angel: Alita* since 2000. However, it looks like those *Avatar* sequels were just too damn enticing, and he handed over the reins to Robert Rodriguez, and things have been moving at a lightning speed since.

Shooting is currently underway in Austin with *The Scorch Trials*' Rosa Salazar in the title role, while Christoph Waltz plays the scientist who finds this



broken machine woman and puts her back together again. The script will incorporate the Motorball sport from the comics, which is where *Luke Cage*'s Mahershala Ali comes in. Also, Jackie Earle Haley is playing a cyborg villain, and we're very much up for that.

27 THE BAD BATCH

DIRECTOR Ana Lily Amirpour **CAST** Suki Waterhouse, Jason Momoa, Diego Luna, Keanu Reeves, Jim Carrey **RELEASE** TBC 2017

ANA LILY AMIRPOUR'S second film got a bit of a mixed reaction at its premiere at Venice Film Festival, but we can't wait to see her post-apocalyptic outing. Suki Waterhouse is a woman who is thrown into a cordoned-off wasteland and must make her way through this strange land. It also stars Jason Momoa as a cannibal named Miami Man, Keanu Reeves as a villain called The Dream, and comes with the promise of beautiful, sun-drenched visuals among the grimness.



28 TURBO KID 2

DIRECTORS François Simard, Anouk Whissell, Yoann-Karl Whissell **CAST** Munro Chambers **RELEASE** TBC

IF THE WORD 'Gnomestick' makes you grin like an idiot, the chances are you've been exposed to the wonders of the Eighties-infused postapocalyptic of *Turbo Kid*. Shortly after dropping an awesome short prequel film on us, RKSS announced that they'd be returning to the drought-ridden world of BMXs and improvised weaponry for a sequel. Munro Chambers will be back as The Kid, but we are going to have to insist on Laurence Laboeuf's Apple returning in at least some form.

25 A CURE FOR WELLNESS

DIRECTOR Gore Verbinski **CAST** Dane DeHaan, Jason Isaacs, Mia Goth **RELEASE** 24 March 2017

HE'S BEEN SO firmly committed to Disney movies that we'd almost forgotten that Gore Verbinski was the man who gave us the actually really pretty good US remake of *The Ring*, so we're very happy to welcome him back to the horror genre with this twisty, twisted, stylised chiller. Dane DeHaan leads as a man sent to retrieve his boss from a mysterious European health spa, but he soon realises that all is not as it seems. The trailer looks incredibly stylish, and we're definitely up for the blend of *Shutter Island* paranoia, unwelcome eels and Jason Isaacs that is promised. Let's just hope that it has the goods to back up the eye candy.



29 THE AUTOPSY OF JANE DOE

DIRECTOR André Øvredal **CAST** Emile Hirsch, Brian Cox, Ophelia Lovibond **RELEASE** TBC 2017

WE'VE BEEN KEEPING a close eye on *The Autopsy Of Jane Doe* for a while now, and after getting raves from the festival circuit, it's finally close to a UK release. The chiller comes from *Troll Hunter* director André Øvredal, and finds a father-son coroner team (Brian Cox and Emile Hirsch) dealing with an unidentified murder victim who offers no explanation as to why she should be dead. If they get under her skin, they'll certainly find something, but do they really want the answers they're looking for? With a confined location and a time frame of just one night, this promises to be a claustrophobic, intense and intelligent piece of horror filmmaking.





COVER FEATURE

The Geek 100

30 CALLING TIME ON ADVENTURE TIME

Adventure Time's head writer tells us how it feels to wrap up everyone's favourite cult cartoon

CREATOR Pendleton Ward **CAST** John DiMaggio, Jeremy Shada, Tom Kenny **RELEASE** TBC 2018 **WORDS** SARAH DOBBS

DESPITE WHAT THE theme tune says, it turns out Finn and Jake's adventures actually *will* end: Cartoon Network has announced that the last episodes of *Adventure Time* will air in 2018. There's no need to cry into your Lady Rainicorn plush just yet though, because that means we've still got two seasons to look forward to. We caught up with Kent Osborne, the show's head of story, to talk all things Ooo...

Are the final two seasons finished now?

We're currently writing the final finale. It's sort of interesting, because it's animation. When live-action shows come to an end, they announce it and then the show ends. But this takes a year to animate, so we're still in production, still writing, and we're all in denial. It hasn't hit yet. But we're happy that it ran for so long. It's bittersweet.

What have we got to look forward to in the final episodes?

There are some very big things that are coming up that will hopefully be very exciting... but I can't talk about it! Not only do I work on the show, I'm also a big fan, and as a fan I'm pretty excited about this upcoming season.

The show has a complex mythology and hundreds of characters. How do you keep track of everything?

Adam Muto, who's our showrunner, has a crazy photographic memory. He's really good at remembering minute details, like if we've done something before, or when was the last time we saw this... he keeps track

of all that. We'll have done 256 episodes, I think, when we're all done, and it's kind of a blur! But we don't have anything to consult. We just have a production staff that works really hard.

Who's your favourite minor character to bring into an episode?

I love Lumpy Space Princess. She's hilarious. Whenever I'm [story] boarding I try to put her in, just as a sight gag. There's an episode coming up where – not to give anything away – but the characters are chasing each other through the woods and there's a part where they're jumping over some logs, and I put LSP in a log. So when they jump over it she's like, "huh?"

And I always try to put the characters that I do voices for into the episodes. You don't get residuals for writing, but if you act, oh my gosh, you get cheques for like \$8 for the rest of your life.

Adventure Time has won so many awards and got so much acclaim. What has been the proudest moment for you?

I think the Peabody Award, because it's an award they give to news journalists for really serious subjects. Neil deGrasse Tyson was there, and the people who do Radiolab, and they were giving awards to CNN for reports on human trafficking, and then... we were there too! Half the time I was like, "Why are we here?" And then the other half was very proud and happy.

What's your favourite piece of Adventure Time merchandise?

I like those hoodies where if you zip it all the way up it has Jake's face or Lady Rainicorn's face [over your face]. Those are really funny to me for some reason. Oh, and there's a VR game I tried where you can throw snowballs at penguins. That's pretty exciting.

Adventure Time is currently airing on Cartoon Network.



31 STAR TREK DISCOVERY

SHOWRUNNERS Gretchen Berg, Aaron Harberts **CAST** Michelle Yeoh **RELEASE** May 2017

WHEN A NEW television series for *Star Trek* was announced in November last year, we were excited to say the least. It has been over a decade since *Enterprise* ended, and while the JJ Abrams films are doing a fantastic job at filling the gap, it's about time that we got to discover a whole new team, which is quite apt when you realise that the new show is called *Star Trek: Discovery*.

While Fuller may no longer be working on the show due to other commitments, his vision of a representation TV show live on. He stated in the past that the leading character would be female – though not the captain – and that there would be LGBT representation, and a new breed of aliens. They are playing their cards very close to their chest. It will air on Netflix in 13 parts that make up a whole story.

All we know so far is that Michelle Yeoh has been cast in a leading role. It is as yet unconfirmed who she will be playing – rumours circulate around a Starfleet captain, though not of USS *Discovery*!



© Rita Mohar

CAPTAIN'S LOG

40272

STAR DATE: 02/11/2015

We can gladly announce that the newest adventures of Starfleet are going to be recorded and televised in the near future as a celebration of their being portrayed for the citizens of Earth.

STAR DATE: 09/02/2016

Having successfully shown the world the adventures of the USS *Voyager* and the Deep Space Nine station,

Mr Bryan Fuller will be helming the latest adventures. (REDACTED: **Star date:** 27/10/16)

STAR DATE: 23/07/2016

We proudly announce that the centre of attention shall be on the USS *Discovery*, the predecessor of the famed USS *Enterprise*. As previously confirmed, it shall air on the so-called Netflix.

STAR DATE: 14/09/2016

Sadly, we must delay the broadcast of the latest Starfleet adventures. This is due to our need to make sure we portray the USS *Discovery* with absolute clarity.

STAR DATE: 23/11/16

We are pleased to announced that Miss Michelle Yeoh will be portraying a role in the series. More information is, however, classified.

32 ELECTRIC DREAMS

SHOWRUNNER Ronald D Moore **CAST** Bryan Cranston
RELEASE TBC 2017

WE'RE ABOUT TO see a whole wave of sci-fi anthology shows in the wake of *Black Mirror*'s success, but we're particularly excited about *Electric Dreams*. *Battlestar Galactica*'s Ronald D Moore shepherds this UK-US co-production based on Philip K Dick's stories, with awesome writers like Jack Thorne, Tony Grisoni and David Farr updating the tales for our times, while the great Bryan Cranston stars.



Millie Bobby Brown will return for Season Two.



33 STRANGER THINGS THE DUNGEON MASTER'S GUIDE

CREATORS Matt Duffer, Ross Duffer **CAST** Winona Ryder, David Harbour, Finn Wolfhard, Millie Bobby Brown **RELEASE** TBC 2017

EXAMINE YOUR SURROUNDINGS

Eleven is definitely playing a part in Season Two, as the return of actress Millie Bobby Brown has been confirmed. But where is she? And where has she been? Just what will her relationship to Chief Hopper, last seen leaving Eggo waffles in the forest for her, be? And what about Hopper anyway? Just what is the nature of his relationship to the government? Did he make a deal to keep the peace, or is he actively working with them following the death of Dr Brenner? And just how regularly is Will going to be vomiting worms? Given that he's now a series regular, his problems will at least take place in this dimension.

ENCOUNTER NEW FACES ON YOUR QUEST

Some damn impressive names have joined the Duffers' sensation, including two pulled from films that were obviously a huge inspiration on the show. *Aliens*' Paul Reiser will be playing Dr Owens, a government figure who has to clean up Dr Brenner's mess, while *The Goonies* and *Lord Of The Rings*' Sean Astin stars as a nerdy old friend of Joyce's. Comedian Brett Gelman was recently cast as a disgraced journalist who comes to town to sniff around the various conspiracy theories, while Sadie Sink and Dacre Montgomery play a tough 13-year old and her swaggering stepbrother respectively, and Danish actress Linnea Berthelsen plays a damaged woman with a connection to the mystery. So in other words it's going to be a busy season.

MOVE QUICKLY BUT CAREFULLY TO YOUR DESTINATION

Netflix may have kept us waiting for that Season Two confirmation, but the Duffers revealed that they had actually already commissioned it before the first season had aired. They've

got lightning in a bottle with this show, and they obviously understand the need to move quickly. We have to assume that this is in large part due to the young cast, who will grow out of their characters' ages soon enough. However, we're a little bit cautious about the feeling of rushing. *Stranger Things* seemed to come out of nowhere, but it was obviously a labour of love. So many of us are invested in this story now. If it feels like any less care or attention went into it then we'll be furious.

RESPECT YOUR HEROES

A huge part of *Stranger Things*' success was down to the incredible casting. We loved Winona Ryder as the harried Joyce, we loved David Harbour as the increasingly heroic Chief Hopper, and most of all, we loved the kids. *Stranger Things* had some of the best child casting in recent memory, and although we're obviously very excited about the new faces, we can't wait to catch up with Mike, Eleven, Dustin, Lucas and Will. And we do want to know why on earth Nancy ended up with that mini Jean-Ralphio Steve. Steve? Really?

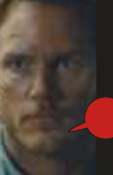
DELIVER JUSTICE FOR BARB

Just get it done.



Without question, the kids were the best part of the show.





COVER FEATURE

The Geek 100

34 JURASSIC WORLD 2

2018

DIRECTOR JA Bayona **CAST** Bryce Dallas Howard, Chris Pratt **RELEASE** 7 June 2018

AFTER THE MONUMENTAL success that was *Jurassic World*, it would be silly not to make another one. To no one's surprise, the sequel was announced just over a month after the release of the first film. However, director Colin Trevorrow has left Isla Nublar (for now, at least). Instead, the director's chair will be taken over by *A Monster Calls*' JA Bayona. The film has received critical acclaim at the BFI London Film Festival this year, so he clearly has a gift with gigantic beasts.

Seeing as quite a few of *Jurassic World*'s characters have been eaten by

dinosaurs, more actors have been added to the cast, including Rafe Spall, who has starred in a handful of genre hits like *Shaun Of The Dead* and *Black Mirror*, and Toby Jones of the first two *Captain America* movies and *The Hunger Games*.

Things are also turning slightly more sinister as dinosaurs start being weaponised, creating all-out Jurassic warfare. Man-eating dinos on the loose in a theme park is one thing, but roaming Earth while being controlled by war-mongering humans is an entirely different story.

UNITED STATES OFFICE OF WAR INFORMATION

CONFIDENTIAL

SUBJECT: Jurassic War, Isla NUBLAR Jurassic World

PREFACE: This report is based on the information obtained from the interrogation of 15 scientists and laboratory technicians held for questioning at the Isla NUBLAR military base,

all of which work in confidential sectors of the Isla NUBLAR Jurassic World scientific and research centres.

The report shows that employees of the Isla NUBLAR Jurassic World scientific and research centres appear to be working on undocumented, illegal experiments unapproved by the United States Office of War Information, involving Jurassic genetic manipulation

and experimentation.



35 WAR FOR THE PLANET OF THE APES

DIRECTOR Matt Reeves **CAST** Andy Serkis, Woody Harrelson, Judy Greer, Steve Zahn **RELEASE** 14 July

Actor Andy Serkis talks Caesar's evolution and the differences between humans and apes...

WORDS ADAM TANSWELL

Does your movement for Caesar change in *War For The Planet Of The Apes*?

Yes! He's gone from an infant to quite a mature point in his life. In the last movie, [Caesar] had become this mature statesman and leader of a big tribe of 2,000 apes. In this movie, Caesar is probably the most evolved ape of all of them – he talks in a much more human way, and even his physicality and the more he uses his hands, and the way he stands, it's verging more towards being human.

Do you sometimes miss the more primitive Caesar?

Not really, because the more primitive Caesar was much more painful. Playing Caesar as an infant was I think the most painful thing of my life, and it was really quite brutal. But actually, the older he has got and the more human he has become, it's not quite as taxing. But emotionally and in terms of the journey,

the psychological journey on this one, it is a brilliant role, and it's just a fantastic gift of a role and just an incredible arc.

Will we empathise with the apes more than the humans in this film?

I think the beauty of this script and the way Matt [Reeves] wants to tell his tale was, although it's a Caesar-centric story and you see it from Caesar's perspective, the balance is absolutely and totally there. It would be very dull to have these kinds of heroes and villains. It's a very complex range of characters across both humans and apes, who are both dark and light, and basically they are all struggling to survive.

36 ANNIHILATION

DIRECTOR Alex Garland **CAST** Natalie Portman, Gina Rodriguez, Oscar Isaac, Tessa Thompson **RELEASE** TBC 2017

WORDS ADAM TANSWELL

DIRECTOR ALEX GARLAND wowed audiences last year with *Ex Machina*. Now he's back with *Annihilation*, based on Jeff VanderMeer's novel, which stands a good chance of being even weirder and more gripping.

The story starts when a biologist loses her husband to an unidentifiable entity. "It's called The Shimmer, and that's exactly what Alex Garland describes it as," explains actress Gina Rodriguez. "I like the analogy that it's like a cancer; it gets inside of you and it changes you – and then it kills you."

Five female scientists are then sent into the Shimmer in an attempt to figure it out. "It's either something in there that kills them, or they kill each other, so it's a new test to see if women are naturally prone to killing each other," continues Rodriguez. "Even though stereotypes may say differently, us women band together."

"Alex Garland is brilliant," she says. "While he watches the screen of whatever is being filmed, his hands are moving like he's conducting an orchestra. It's like he can see it fully edited and he can hear the music – and he moves like he is orchestrating this experience. It's jaw dropping, because you are standing there thinking, 'This is incredible. What is this man doing?'"

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37 PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN 5

DIRECTORS Joachim Ronning, Espen Sandberg **CAST** Johnny Depp, Geoffrey Rush, Javier Bardem **RELEASE** 26 May



THE PIRATES OF *The Caribbean* films are somehow still making heaps of cash, and are therefore still being made. The latest, and fifth in a trilogy of six million, is *Dead Men Tell No Tales*, which will see Captain Jack Sparrow (Johnny Depp) hit the high seas once again while being pursued by his old rival Capitán Salazar, played by Javier Bardem in his first Pirates appearance, and his ghost crew, all fresh from escaping the Devil's Triangle. But Jack has more on his mind than just avoiding Salazar's capture; he's also on the lookout for the Trident of Poseidon, which grants its possessor total control of the seas. Other new cast members include Kaya Scodelario (*The Maze Runner*) and Brenton Thwaites (*Oculus*).

38 TRANSFORMERS: THE LAST KNIGHT

DIRECTOR Michael Bay **CAST** Anthony Hopkins, Mark Wahlberg **RELEASE** 23 June

THE FIFTH AND final film in Michael Bay's *Transformers* franchise will see the 'bots come up against the stuff of legends as Optimus Prime travels to medieval times to track down King Arthur and restore Cybertron's former glory.



39 ALIEN: COVENANT

DIRECTOR Ridley Scott **CAST** Katherine Waterston, Michael Fassbender, Danny McBride **RELEASE** 19 May 2017

PRIORITY ONE: ORIGINAL ALIEN

If you were underwhelmed by *Prometheus*'s Deacon, *Alien: Covenant* ought to get you excited again; it's bringing back the actual, original Alien. Ridley Scott is making a special effort to make this one more of an *Alien* movie.

PRIORITY TWO: DOUBLE MICHAEL FASSBENDER

If you loved Michael Fassbender in the first film, you're going to lose your shit when you see him playing *two* characters in this one; robots David, as introduced in *Prometheus*, and Walter.

PRIORITY THREE: NEOMORPH

Fassbender has teased that we're getting a new alien, named the Neomorph, but Scott has confirmed that all the fan favourites will be back too. Chestbursters, facehuggers, the big bad xenomorph itself... oh my.

PRIORITY FOUR: ARRIVAL TIME ESTIMATION REPORT

Originally slated for a 7 August 2017 release, the film was recently bumped forward a few months to 19 May. It's not even out yet, and it's already less disappointing than *Prometheus*.

PRIORITY FIVE: HORROR – IMMINENT

Prometheus was a little light on the horror (at least for some), but Ridley Scott has ensured fans that *Alien: Covenant*'s amping up the scare factor. Whether that will happen or not is another matter.



40 THE CHRONICLES OF NARNIA: THE SILVER CHAIR

DIRECTOR TBC **CAST** TBC **RELEASE** TBC

AFTER AT LEAST a seven-year gap, we're finally heading back to Narnia with Eustace Scrubb in *The Silver Chair*. With King Caspian's son missing, Aslan sends Eustace and his classmate Jill Pole to look for him.



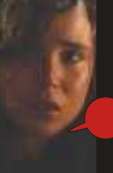
41 INDIANA JONES 5

DIRECTOR Steven Spielberg **CAST** Harrison Ford **RELEASE** 19 July 2019

NOW THAT HAN Solo, um, probably isn't going to be in any more *Star Wars* episodes, Harrison Ford has a bit of extra time on his hands, and he's using it to resurrect our other favourite Harrison Ford character, Indiana Jones.



2019



COVER FEATURE

The Geek 100



42 THE CROW REBORN

DIRECTOR Corin Hardy **CAST** Jason Momoa **RELEASE** TBC

THE CROW REMAKE is proving to be harder to kill than Eric Draven, but it's not for lack of trying. At the time of writing, the state of the latest take on James O'Barr's graphic novel is once again in flux thanks to the fact that Relativity has finally sold the rights after their bankruptcy issues. This means that we don't currently know if director Corin Hardy (who has been holding on for years now, and had actually been reported as leaving before signing back on) and star Jason Momoa (who announced his casting via Instagram) are still involved.

However, it's worth noting that O'Barr has continued to voice his support for the movie, and Hardy (if he is still involved) showed that he could be a great choice for the movie with his atmospheric horror debut *The Hallow*. Still, that January start date is looking shaky.



© David Shankbone

"CAN'T RAIN ALL THE TIME..."

Charting The Crow's signs of life

DECEMBER 2008

Stephen Norrington announced as *The Crow* reinvention writer-director.

NOVEMBER 2009

Relativity joins with Edward R Pressman to finance and distribute the film.

AUGUST 2011

Cooper (left) drops out, with Mark Wahlberg the prime contender to replace him.

APRIL 2011

Bradley Cooper enters talks to star for director Juan Carlos Fresnadillo.

OCTOBER 2011

Fresnadillo drops out.

JANUARY 2012

Francisco Javier Gutiérrez signs on to direct.

MAY 2013

Luke Evans signs on to star as Eric Draven. James O'Barr joins the film as creative consultant.

JUNE 2015

Huston drops out.

FEBRUARY 2015

Jack Huston replaces Evans. Jessica Brown is cast as Shelly, Andrea Riseborough is rumoured for villain Top Dollar.

DECEMBER 2014

Corin Hardy signs on to direct, but Evans drops out.



© Gage Skidmore

JUNE 2015

Relativity announces bankruptcy, stalling the film weeks before it is due to begin filming.

MARCH 2016

Hardy is reported as having left the film while Pressman files a breach of contract lawsuit with Relativity.

NOVEMBER 2016

Relativity sells the rights to the film, which could now lose Hardy and Momoa. What next?

SEPTEMBER 2016

Jason Momoa joins the film and Hardy is back on board for a January start date.



© Gage Skidmore



© Florida Supercorn

43 DEATH NOTE

DIRECTOR Adam Wingard
CAST Nat Wolff, Margaret Qualley, Keith Stanfield, Willem Dafoe **RELEASE** TBC 2017

WHAT IF YOU could kill with a single word? That's the pitch for Netflix and Adam Wingard's take on Tsubumi Ohba and Takeshi Obata's manga series (and you should watch the brilliant anime show, too), in which high schooler Light (Nat Wolff) finds a demonic notebook that kills anyone whose name he writes in it. His plan is to create a better world by taking out the bad guys, but all that power goes to his head.

Its blend of darkness, sly humour and horror is a perfect fit for Wingard, who has pledged to deliver a dark, violent and adult take on the material, and we can't wait to hear Willem Dafoe's voice as the notebook's rightful owner and demon, Ryuk.



44 FLATLINERS

DIRECTOR Niels Arden Oplev
CAST Ellen Page, Diego Luna, Nina Dobrev, Kiersey Clemons **RELEASE** 29 September

THE ORIGINAL FLATLINERS had a great cast too, but we're slightly surprised at the names assembled for this new take on the story of a group of medical students who want to see what you experience just before you die. One of those actors is returning star Kiefer Sutherland, who revealed that this is a sequel rather than a remake, and that he'll be reprising his role as Nelson, although it won't be stated in the film.

Ellen Page and Diego Luna will be leading the experiments under the watchful eye of *The Girl With The Dragon Tattoo* director Niels Arden Oplev, but it's unclear which of the cast will be taunted with the fact that their name sounds like a sexual act. Poor David Labraccio.



45 WE HAVE ALWAYS LIVED IN THE CASTLE

DIRECTOR Stacie Passon
CAST Taissa Farmiga, Alexandra Daddario **RELEASE** TBC 2017

MURDER, FAMILY SECRETS and blackberries – Shirley Jackson's classic Gothic tale is finally coming to the big screen courtesy of *Transparent* director Stacie Passon. *American Horror Story*'s Taissa Farmiga is Merricat Blackwood, who has lived in isolation with her sister (Alexandra Daddario) and mad uncle (Crispin Glover) since the deeply suspicious deaths of various family members. Expect understated chills, madness and lots of references to dangerous cooking. It's been too long since anyone translated Jackson's work.



46 SUSPIRIA

DIRECTOR Luca Guadagnino
CAST Chloë Grace Moretz, Dakota Johnson, Tilda Swinton **RELEASE** TBC 2017

TILDA SWINTON HAS declared that this new take on *Suspiria* is a 'cover' rather than a remake, and we are definitely interested to see what *I Am Love* and *A Bigger Splash* director Luca Guadagnino will bring to Dario Argento's masterpiece of a Technicolor fairy-tale nightmare. The story is set in Berlin, but it's unclear just how closely this remake (sorry, cover) will stick to the original. In any case, we love Guadagnino's work, we absolutely love the cast, and we are very curious about who Jessica Harper, aka the original Suzy Bannion, will be playing. Bring on the witches.



© Gage Skidmore

HORROR HANGOUT

THE GEEK 100
Horror Hangout



47 IT

DIRECTOR Andrés Muschietti
CAST Bill Skarsgård, Jaeden Lieberher
RELEASE 8 September

FILMING HAS WRAPPED on the remake of Stephen King's classic horror, and we can't wait to see at what *Mama* director Andrés Muschietti has got in store for us. The movie is sensibly sticking to the kids' storyline, the casting of *The Losers' Club* looks ace, and *Hemlock Grove*'s Bill Skarsgård looks deeply freaky as Pennywise. Brrr.

48 SAW: LEGACY

DIRECTOR The Spierig Brothers
CAST Tobin Bell **RELEASE** 13 October

WE'RE SO EXCITED that the rumours of *Jigsaw*'s return turned out to be true, and even more so when it was announced that the Spierig Brothers, who gave us *Predestination*, are directing. Everything is being kept very much under wraps, but we know that Charlie Clouser is coming back, as well as *Saw 3D*'s Jon Cor. The traps are set for Halloween – and there will be blood.

49 FRIDAY THE 13TH

DIRECTOR Breck Eisner **CAST** TBC
RELEASE 13 October

JASON'S LONG-AWAITED trip back to Crystal Lake is finally getting going, and with a hard R rating. Breck Eisner (who's better known for movies like *The Sorcerer's Apprentice*, although he did make the very decent remake of *The Crazies*) has stepped in to replace David Bruckner, and Aaron Guzikowski's script seems to have everyone excited. But will it actually meet its October release date?



50 THE TOXIC AVENGER

DIRECTOR Conrad Vernon **CAST** TBC
RELEASE TBC

A REMAKE OF Troma's wonderful schlock classic *The Toxic Avenger* has been floating around for years now (at one point Arnold Schwarzenegger was involved), but now *Sausage Party* co-director Conrad Vernon has been chosen to helm, and we're excited about the fact that the script comes from Archer veterans Mike Arnold and Chris Poole. We're not sure about it being more 'grounded' though...



51 HALLOWEEN

DIRECTOR TBC **CAST** TBC **RELEASE** TBC

WE LET OURSELVES get excited when it was announced that Blumhouse, Miramax and John Carpenter himself were teaming up to make a new *Halloween*, but it looks like Michael Myers is struggling. Adam Wingard (*You're Next*) and Mike Flanagan (*Oculus*) were circling, but Jason Blum recently revealed that they still haven't settled on a story or filmmaker, so we're in for a long wait.

COVER FEATURE

The Geek 100

VAN HELSING:

MONSTER HUNTER

DRACULA
WILL RISE!

TOM CRUISE VERSUS
THE MUMMY

TREMBLE AT
THE BRIDE OF
FRANKENSTEIN

THE
WOLFMAN
UNLEASHED!

MONSTERS INC.

52

DIRECTOR Alex Kurtzman **CAST** Tom Cruise, Sofia Boutella, Annabelle Wallis, Courtney B Vance, Jake Johnson **RELEASE** 9 June

THE MUMMY STALKS into cinemas in June, and it's bringing some serious star power. Tom Cruise will be facing off with the Egyptian monster in Alex Kurtzman's modern-day reboot, while *Star Trek Beyond*'s Sofia Boutella bandages up as the titular creature. The supporting cast is ace, but it's Russell Crowe that you should keep an eye on.

Crowe is playing Dr Henry Jekyll, with an eye to bringing his alter ego to life in another film down the line. The third confirmed A-list name is Johnny Depp as *The Invisible Man*, who'll debut in an undated solo film written by *Bill & Ted*'s Ed Solomon.

Beyond that, we only know the writers. There's *The Wolf Man* from

The Expendables' David Callaham, which could star Dwayne Johnson; Jeff Pinkner was attached to *The Creature From The Black Lagoon*, and David Koepp (*Jurassic Park*) has been entrusted with *The Bride Of Frankenstein*. Jon Spaihts (*Prometheus*) and Eric Heisserer (*Lights Out*) are currently working on a new *Van Helsing* movie that could bring all these creatures together.

We don't know which of these will hit on 13 April 2018 and 15 February 2019, and there's still no word on *Dracula*, who may or may not be *Dracula Untold*'s Luke Evans.

We so badly want this shared universe to work, and so we wait for June...

JOHNNY
DEPP IS
THE
INVISIBLE
MAN

FEAR THE
CREATURE FROM THE
BLACK LAGOON





53 ANNABELLE 2

DIRECTOR David F Sandberg
CAST Miranda Otto, Anthony LaPaglia,
 Lulu Wilson, Stephanie Sigman
RELEASE 26 May

WE, LIKE MANY of you, were not the biggest fans of 2014's *The Conjuring* spin-off *Annabelle*, but *Ouija: Origin Of Evil* showed us that period prequels to naff horror movies can actually work. *Lights Out* director David F Sandberg has promised *The Godfather II* of creepy doll movies, but we'd settle for a decent one.

54 GOD PARTICLE: CLOVERFIELD 3?

DIRECTOR Julius Onah **CAST** Gugu Mbatha-Raw, David Oyelowo, Daniel Brühl, Elizabeth Debicki, Chris O'Dowd, Zhang Ziyi **RELEASE** 24 February

WE ONLY FOUND out that *10 Cloverfield Lane* was not an indie movie called *Valencia* a couple of months before its release, which made us deeply suspicious of all upcoming JJ Abrams projects. So the revelation that *God Particle* takes place in the same universe feels less 'holy shit!' but we're still hugely excited. It's also worth noting that star Gugu Mbatha-Raw said that she's unaware of any *Cloverfield* connection, so this may all be an elaborate double bluff.

So what do we know? Well, as is SOP for Abrams, details are on the lighter end of light, but it's about a team of astronauts on board an international space station who have to fight for their lives after a reality-altering event. We're loving the international cast, and we can't wait to find out what secrets director Julius Onah (*The Girl Is Trouble*) has in store for us.



57 COLOSSAL

DIRECTOR Nacho Vigalondo
CAST Anne Hathaway, Jason Sudeikis, Dan Stevens **RELEASE** TBC 2017

ANNE HATHAWAY'S ACTIONS have consequences for Seoul in the latest film from Nacho Vigalondo. The self-sabotaging acts of recently dumped Gloria (Anne Hathaway) are mirrored by a giant city-smashing reptile in South Korea. We are as confused and excited as you are.



55 INSIDIOUS CHAPTER 4

DIRECTOR Adam Robitel
CAST Lin Shaye, Angus Sampson, Leigh Whannell, Josh Stewart **RELEASE** 3 November

LIN SHAYE IS back for more ghostbusting as Elise Rainier in the fourth instalment of James Wan and Leigh Whannell's horror franchise, which sees *The Taking Of Deborah Logan*'s Adam Robitel step behind the camera. Plot details are MIA, but Whannell's back on writing duties, and we're always up for watching Shaye creep around The Further.

58 OKJA

DIRECTOR Bong Joon-ho
CAST Seo-Hyeon Ahn, Tilda Swinton, Jake Gyllenhaal, Lily Collins **RELEASE** TBC 2017
Snowpiercer's Bong Joon-ho returns with this Netflix-produced sci-fi that sounds like an adorable version of his brilliant *The Host*. *Okja* tells the story of Mija who wants to protect the giant monster that's also her best friend from a sinister corporation. The talent assembled is not surprising; Bong has never made a bad film.

56 PREVENGE

DIRECTOR Alice Lowe **CAST** Alice Lowe, Jo Hartley, Kayvan Novak, Kate Dickie, Gemma Whelan, Dan Skinner **RELEASE** 10 February

HAVING SEEN ALICE Lowe's directorial debut at LFF earlier this year, we can tell you that this is a film that you cannot afford to miss. The co-writer and star of *Sightseers* has delivered a film that is a dark and hilarious, with a rich blend of comedy, drama and horror, and we can't wait to see it again.

Lowe plays Ruth, who is eight months pregnant and out to murder everyone who she believes was involved in the death of her husband. Driven by her own rage and the brutally pushy voice of her unborn child, Ruth starts ticking off names with lethal efficiency, but what will these murders actually achieve? And will that voice go away once the baby is born?

There's all that fantastically bleak humour that you'd expect given Lowe's previous work, but what really impresses is the complexity she brings to Ruth. This is a stylish and very intelligent genre hybrid, and the incredible feat of directing and starring in a film while eight months pregnant shouldn't distract from Lowe's artistic accomplishment. See this.



"DRIVEN BY HER OWN RAGE AND THE BRUTALLY PUSHY VOICE OF HER UNBORN CHILD, RUTH STARTS TICKING OFF NAMES WITH LETHAL EFFICIENCY"



COVER FEATURE

The Geek 100



61 KING ARTHUR: LEGEND OF THE SWORD

DIRECTOR Guy Ritchie **CAST** Charlie Hunnam, Jude Law, Annabelle Wallis, Katie McGrath
RELEASE 24 March 2017

IF WE EVER compiled a master list of things we didn't really need, a King Arthur film directed by Guy Ritchie would be on there somewhere. But it could be fun, especially when it's got Charlie Hunnam as Arthur, running the streets and alleys of Londinium with his crew, Eric Bana as his dad Uther, and Jude Law as a tyrannical warlord called Vortigern. And did we mention that David Beckham's in it too? The fact that the film's release date has been pushed back three times means we are expecting big things from it, or at least something that would warrant the delay.



LUDI LIN

(ZACK THE BLACK RANGER)

"I've actually had a long history with *Power Rangers*... It's very meaningful to me. My first action figure was a Yellow Ranger that my mom gave me to appease me during a very traumatic time."

RJ CYLER

(BILLY THE BLUE RANGER)

"We used to get whippings from my Granddad because we'd break furniture doing *Power Ranger*-related activities. Especially when I had to make my own PR situation happen."

NAOMI SCOTT

(KIMBERLY THE PINK RANGER)

"What's really great is we can take something that is so iconic and to some people, just a concept. And we can add layers to that, and really delve into the characters. Give them more depth."



BECKY G

(TRINI THE YELLOW RANGER)

"I remember getting ready for school and *Power Rangers* [was] on as I ate my cereal. I'm Mexican American, I'm Latina, so I have a lot of cousins, and we would pretend to be *Power Rangers*."

DACRE MONTGOMERY

(JASON THE RED RANGER)

"For me, *Power Rangers* was more of a concept, the idea about a superhero and what it means to people. I think there's a lot of weight and responsibility in that."

59 VALERIAN AND THE CITY OF A THOUSAND PLANETS

DIRECTOR Luc Besson
CAST Dane DeHaan, Cara Delevingne, Clive Owen, Rihanna
RELEASE 21 July 2017

OUR FIRST PROPER look at Luc Besson's latest shows that the *Leon* and *Lucy* director is going full *Fifth Element*: spaceships, laser battles, mad aliens, and a magically costume-changing Rihanna. Dane DeHaan and Cara Delevingne suit up as the intergalactic agents who are tasked with saving the universe, while Clive Owen, Ethan Hawke and Alain Chabat offer support. Some people are throwing around 'Next *Jupiter Ascending*' burns, but we're optimistic.



60 LIFE

DIRECTOR Daniel Espinosa
CAST Rebecca Ferguson, Jake Gyllenhaal, Ryan Reynolds, Hiroyuki Sanada
RELEASE 12 May 2017

SOME DAY, MAKING first contact will work out well for someone. But it looks like we can expect to see things going wrong for the crew of an international space station examining a sample of extraterrestrial life in this sci-fi horror. Rebecca Ferguson (*Mission Impossible: Rogue Nation*), Jake Gyllenhaal and Ryan Reynolds lead the cast, while the script comes from the *Deadpool* duo of Rhett Reese and Paul Wernick, although we should expect claustrophobia and screaming rather than filthy laughs.

62 GO, GO, POWER RANGERS

DIRECTOR Dean Israelite **CAST** Ludi Lin, Becky G, RJ Cyler, Naomi Scott, Dacre Montgomery
RELEASE 24 March 2017

THE MIGHTY MORPHIN *Power Rangers* are almost back in film form for the first time in 20 years. Five teenage outcasts are teaming up to get trained by Zordon (Bryan Cranston) and getting ready to tear Rita Repulsa (Elizabeth Banks) a new one.

66 BLADE RUNNER 2049

DIRECTOR: Denis Villeneuve **CAST:** Harrison Ford, Ryan Gosling, Robin Wright
RELEASE: 6 October 2017

THERE'LL CERTAINLY BE tears of happiness in the rain or sunshine when the sequel to Ridley Scott's seminal 1982 masterpiece comes about.

Reuniting Scott (now producing) with original star Harrison Ford, incoming director Denis Villeneuve has promised to 'solve' the original's conundrum of whether or not Deckard was in fact a replicant. Scott seemed to have put the issue to rest once and for all when he appeared to confirm that he was, only for Ford to muddy the waters by claiming otherwise. He can be a bit like that.

It says a lot for a film that it can still encourage this level of intimate debate after all this time, meaning

that the sequel has a lot to live up to, but we're sure it will. For one thing, it has the right personnel involved, with Villeneuve jumping on board off the back of excellent sci-fi *Arrival* and drug-bust thriller *Sicario*, and an outstanding cast that includes the likes of Ryan Gosling, Robin Wright, Dave Bautista, Mackenzie Davis, Lennie James and Jared Leto.

Speaking in an interview with *Collider*, Villeneuve is clearly aware of the task he has on his hands, recalling his "deep fear" of following up Ridley Scott, but at the same time expressing his confidence in the "powerful" script. Since we know what he's capable of, we're sure there's nothing to worry about.

REPLICANT OR NO REPLICANT?

We fired up our Voight-Kampff machine for a completely speculative look at which of *Blade Runner 2049*'s cast might be... artificial



JARED LETO

Watch how he acts: if it's a restrained performance, definitely Replicant. If he stars lobbing dead rats or soiled johnnies around, chances are it's Jared going 'method' again.

VOIGHT-KAMPPF VERDICT:
50% likelihood of being a Replicant



RYAN GOSLING

Clearly intended as the successor to Deckard, we suspect he'll also inherit his cliffhanger, too. If he starts making paper unicorns then that's a dead giveaway. Plus, he's way too handsome.

VOIGHT-KAMPPF VERDICT:
60%



ROBIN WRIGHT

The sobering voice of authority, we predict that she'll be in a boss role of sorts, therefore is probably safe from accusations of, y'know, not actually being a person.

VOIGHT-KAMPPF VERDICT:
20%



LENNIE JAMES

We're picturing him as the honest Joe of the group – not sure what it is, but he just doesn't feel like replicant material to us. We're going to avoid hedging our bets and say no.

VOIGHT-KAMPPF VERDICT:
10%



MACKENZIE DAVIS

Okay, so there were only three, but every female character in *Blade Runner* turned out to be a Replicant. To us, Davis could definitely be a later model of Sean Young's melancholy Rachael.

VOIGHT-KAMPPF VERDICT:
70%



DAVE BAUTISTA

If Replicants were possible to make, then why wouldn't you make certain models extremely strong for security purposes? We reckon we're onto something here...

VOIGHT-KAMPPF VERDICT:
80%



2018

63 THE PREDATOR

DIRECTOR: Shane Black **CAST:** Olivia Munn, Boyd Holbrook **RELEASE:** 16 February 2018

IT'S HARD TO see a bad side to this: Shane Black writing and directing a new *Predator* movie that is unambiguously a sequel rather than a remake or rehash.

So far, the signs are good. Speaking in an interview with us back in July, Black (who, of course, had a small role as Hawkins in the 1987 original movie, and rewrote the script) spoke of his desire to keep the action on Earth (which it has since been confirmed will indeed be the case), and to create "a powerful mystery story that has a sense of *Close Encounters* about it." Sounds good to us.

Even better, recent rumours have suggested that the Governor himself, Arnold Schwarzenegger, is in talks to return as Major Dutch Schaefer. Whether this happens or not, we can at least rest assured that the rest of the cast appears to be filling out in satisfactory fashion. So far, Boyd Holbrook (*Narcos*) and Olivia Munn (*X-Men: Apocalypse*) are confirmed, with the rumour mill even propelling the name of Curtis '50 Cent' Jackson our way. We have this one locked firmly in our sights...

64 ALIEN NATION

DIRECTOR: Jeff Nichols
CAST: TBC **RELEASE:** TBC

THE BIG-SCREEN REMAKE of *Alien Nation* has been around a while now, but it appears to have secured *Midnight Special* director Jeff Nichols. As fans, we're biased, but the show's themes of racism and integration are as relevant as ever, and in Nichols they've found the right man to make it tick.



65 WORLD WAR Z 2

DIRECTOR: TBC **CAST:** Brad Pitt
RELEASE: 9 June 2017

THE SEQUEL TO 2013's hottest zombie film is currently existing without a director. However, David Fincher's name rather strangely keeps cropping up. We'd definitely be interested to see what a zombie blockbuster directed by Fincher would look like, but we also can't really see him signing up for it. Brad Pitt's still knocking around though, and we know he and Fincher go way back.



COVER FEATURE

The Geek 100



67 SUPERGIRL: THE MUSICAL



SHOWRUNNER Ali Adler **CAST** Melissa Benoist, Grant Gustin, Mehdad Brooks, Chyler Leigh, David Harewood **RELEASE** TBC

THERE ARE FEW things on this Earth greater than the concept of a *Supergirl* and *The Flash* crossover musical episode. Season One's crossover was delightful enough without song-and-dance numbers, so we're pretty jazzed.

The episode ought to actually be good, too, seeing as most of both shows' casts can sing. Both Melissa Benoist and Grant Gustin proved that they can both more than carry a tune when they appeared in the later seasons of *Glee*, Benoist often taking gut-busting solos as a member of the in-series show choir New Directions, and Gustin as one of the lead singers for the Warblers.

Similarly, Chyler Leigh wowed in the musical episode of *Grey's Anatomy* back in 2011. Victor Garber has a lot of musical theatre experience under his belt. Jesse L Martin starred in Broadway, Off-Broadway and film versions of *Rent* (and we heard him sing on *The Flash* on Earth-2), and Jeremy Jordan sings and dances like an angel, as proven by almost all of his career. If you scour the farthest corners of YouTube for long enough, you'll find substantial evidence that most of the *Supergirl* and *The Flash* casts are actually really strong singers. Except maybe Danielle Panabaker, but she's been quite open about not wanting to sing.

As *Supergirl* isn't usually a musical, an explanation for the songs will need to be thought up. "My sense is that we will be very careful about how it is that they break into song," Greg Berlanti said during the Television Critics Association press tour. "There will probably be an element to being in some character or characters' heads at the time, just so that we're being delicate in terms of how we navigate those waters." We'd say the reason for the songs has to be believable, but that's a lot to ask from a show about a super-powered alien.

'SUPERGIRL IN DISGUISE'

[VERSE 1]

Looking around, there's not a foe in sight,
But seizing the day I want to go take flight,
It's a perfect day to be soaring through the skies,
I'm Supergirl,
And I'm in disguise!

[VERSE 2]

But I put on my glasses and I disappear,
Nobody pays attention to this nerd over here,
I'm running late for work and I don't want to date
these guys,
I'm Supergirl,
And I'm in disguise!

[BRIDGE]

Fetching the coffee and saving the city,
Don't know who I am anymore...
But when somebody needs me I always come quickly
It never takes more than, one, two, three, four...

[CHORUS]

Speed is increasing now I got the Flash,
Don't want him to beat me so I got to dash,
We need to duet before either of us dies,
I'm Supergirl,
I'm always in disguise!

68 KRYPTON

CREATORS David S Goyer, Damian Kindler
CAST Cameron Cuffe, Georgina Campbell, Ian McElhinney **RELEASE** TBC

SYFY HAS FINALLY decided to get a piece of the DC Comics universe with its new series *Krypton*. The show, which has currently only received a pilot order, is being developed by *Man Of Steel* writer David S Goyer, and is set to focus on Superman's grandfather Seg-El (played by Cameron Cuffe) as he fights to redeem his family's honour before Krypton was destroyed.



69 iZOMBIE

SHOWRUNNERS Rob Thomas, Diane Ruggiero-Wright **CAST** Rose McIver, Malcolm Goodwin, Rahul Kohli **RELEASE** TBC 2017

ONE OF THE things we loved the most about *iZombie* Seasons One and Two – besides its cast, its characters and everything else about it – is the fact that it tells big arching storylines over a collection of fun, weird 'case of the week' dilemmas. After the massive zombie outbreak that went down at the end of Season One, it seems unlikely that Liv (Rose McIver), Detective Babineaux (Malcolm Goodwin) and Ravi (Rahul Kohli) will feel the need to continue to solve murders together. Sure, finding and arresting murderers is a serious business, but it seems like containing the outbreak in an attempt to save the human race *might* take priority this time.

Things are about to well and truly go tits up in *iZombie* land, and we can tell by the fact that Season Three is set to open with a mammoth two-hour premiere. Nothing pleasant can come of it. The new episode will continue where the last finale left off, with mysterious corporation Filmore Grave arriving at the scene of the outbreak suspiciously quickly. There's not really any more info available concerning Season Three's plot, and we'd actually rather quite like to keep it that way. *iZombie* is always at its best when it's shocking its dedicated audience to the core.

LIV'S ULTIMATE WAFFLE RECIPE

You will need: waffle batter, a fresh brain (diced), hot sauce (the hottest they've got)

METHOD

1. Prepare the waffle batter.
2. Add the brain and cook.
3. Add the hot sauce. More.





70 MIDNIGHT, TEXAS

SHOWRUNNER Monica Owusu-Breen **CAST** Francois Arnaud, Dylan Bruce, Parisa Fitz-Henley **RELEASE** TBC 2017

AFTER THE COLOSSAL success of HBO's *True Blood* (perhaps minus the final season), it only makes sense to turn as much of Charlaine Harris' work as possible into cult TV shows. That is exactly what has happened with NBC's upcoming series, *Midnight, Texas*, which has been developed by *Fringe*'s Monica Owusu-Breen and *Family Guy*'s Mark Hentemann. Though obviously not as well-known as *True Blood*, the trilogy of books still has a bit of a cult following.

Even darker and more mysterious than *Bon Temps*, *Midnight, Texas*, is a quiet, dried-up Western town where very few stay for long, but those that do tend to go a little mad. Manfred Bernado (Francois Arnaud) thought *Midnight* would be a good place to crash while he finished off some private business. Oh, how wrong he was. In *Midnight, Texas*, being normal is strange. Combine the town's boarded-up windows and sinister atmosphere with the vampires, witches, psychics and hitmen that reside there, and you've got absolute chaos.

If you love sexy Texan people getting into bar fights, being possessed by demons and contacting the undead, you should definitely check out the trailer, because it will tick all your boxes.



71 MAKING HISTORY

SHOWRUNNER Julius Sharpe
CAST Adam Pally, Leighton Meester, Yassir Lester **RELEASE** TBC

THIS HALF-HOUR COMEDY is merging genre conventions, focusing on a professor who invents a device that will allow him and his colleague to change the course of past events, thus improving the events of the future. It's part time-travel, part timeline manipulation and totally bonkers. However, something goes badly wrong when one of the guys starts dating the daughter of Paul Revere, a real-life Patriot of the American Revolution.



72 BEYOND

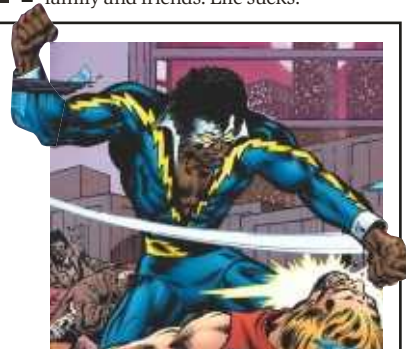
CREATOR Adam Nussdorf
CAST Burkley Duffield, Jordan Calloway, Romy Rosemont **RELEASE** TBC

WHEN A MAN named Holden awakens from a 12-year coma, he quickly realises that something is different; emotionally he's still a teenager, physically he's now an adult, and as if things weren't already complicated enough, he also finds he has a new set of supernatural abilities that fling him right into the middle of a dangerous conspiracy. As well as the conspiracy, he also has to deal with his family and friends. Life sucks.

73 BLACK LIGHTNING

CREATOR Greg Berlanti
CAST TBC **RELEASE** TBC

GREG BERLANTI CAN'T be stopped. The *Arrow*verse showrunner obviously felt like he didn't already have enough on his absolutely massive plate when he started work on *Black Lightning*, a new series based on the DC Comics superhero of the same name.



74 TWIN PEAKS

CREATOR David Lynch **CAST** Kyle MacLachlan, Sheryl Lee, Ray Wise **RELEASE** TBC 2017

WHEN LAURA PALMER (Sheryl Lee) told Agent Dale Cooper (Kyle MacLachlan) "I'll see you in 25 years" in the Red Room of the Black Lodge, we'll be honest, we didn't quite believe her. Even now, we still can't quite comprehend that a third season of *Twin Peaks* is finally happening.

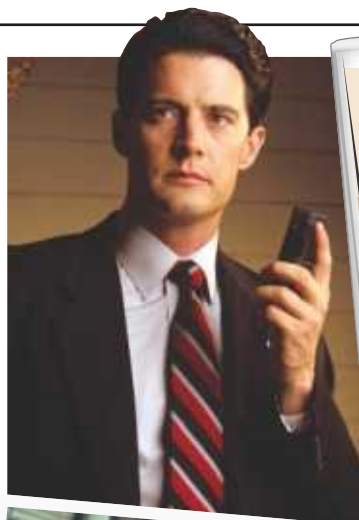
Initially, it did seem to be too good to be true. Production looked to be fraught, with David Lynch walking out of the project, although US network Showtime later managed to entice him to return. To say we're thankful is an understatement – not withstanding the influence of co-writer Mark Frost, *Twin Peaks* without him is unthinkable.

As you would expect, Lynch is keeping his secrets, but we know a few things. A recent teaser showed the Packard Mill in a dilapidated state, and

the recent casting roster revealed that most of the original cast will return, with new additions including Michael Cera, Laura Dern, Naomi Watts, Amanda Seyfried, Ernie Hudson, Jennifer Jason Leigh and Nine Inch Nails singer Trent Reznor.

On the flipside, there are absentees. Particularly missed will be Pete Martell, with actor Jack Nance having sadly passed away in 1996. Also missing are Sheriff Truman (Michael Ontkean), Donna Hayward (Lara Flynn Boyle), Catherine Martell (Piper Laurie), Annie Blackburn (Heather Graham), Leo Johnson (Eric Da Re) and the Man From Another Place (Michael J Anderson).

We would say more, but the owls are watching, and they're not what they seem...



Damn Fine Coffee

Recipe for Season 3

20% - Old characters passing torch to new Bookhouse Boys members

5% - Owls & trees not being what they seem

15% - Murder, double dealings and seedy goings-on

20% - Consumption of donuts and damn fine coffee

10% - Red Lodge backwards talking

30% - Small-town soap operatics



75 PREACHER

THE 10 COMMANDMENTS FOR SEASON 2

I. THOU HAST GAINED
MOMENTUM. THOU
SHALT NOT SLOW DOWN.

II. THOU SHALT NOT STOP
WITH THE SLAPSTICK
ULTRAVIOLENCE.

III. THOU SHALT KEEP IT DARK
AND NOT WORRY ABOUT
PLAYING IT SAFE.

IV. THOU SHALT GIVE US MORE
DEBLANC AND FIORE AND
CONFIRM THAT FAN THEORY
ABOUT GENESIS.

V. THOU SHALT NOT WATER
DOWN JESSE'S FAMILY HISTORY,
FOR IT IS DARK AND BRUTAL
AND EXCELLENT.

VI. JOSEPH GILGUN IS A GIFT
AND THOU SHALT KEEP GIVING
HIM SET PIECES.

VII. RUTH NEGGA IS ALSO A
GIFT AND THOU SHALT GIVE
HER MORE TO DO.

VIII. THOU SHALT BRING IN
HERR STARR AND THE GRAIL.

IX. THOU SHALT KEEP
GIVING US SAINT OF KILLER
FLASHBACKS.

IX. THOU SHALT HIT THE ROAD.

PREACHER SEASON TWO WILL AIR ON AMAZON PRIME IN 2017.



76 THE LEGO BATMAN MOVIE

DIRECTOR Chris McKay **CAST** Will Arnett, Michael Cera, Rosario Dawson **RELEASE** 10 February

EVERYTHING IS AWESOME!

Forget the brooding that is Christian Bale and the totally-done-with-your-shit Ben Affleck Batmans; now is the time of the hilarity that is *The Lego Movie* spin-off; *The Lego Batman Movie*. The trailers have so far been hilarious. From Robin (Michael Cera) choosing his costume and ripping off his tight trousers to Batman (Will Arnett) hissing at sunlight on his face, we have chuckled

all the way though every piece of footage we've seen so far.

The plot centres around Batman having to save Gotham from the biggest threat it has faced yet: the Joker. He may even have to work with others so that he can save the day, and maybe even lighten up a little bit. *The Lego Batman Movie* is the first superhero outing of 2017, and it's going to set the tone for everything else to come – well, we hope it will anyway!

"LEGO BATMAN IS THE FIRST SUPERHERO OUTING OF 2017, AND IT'S GOING TO SET THE TONE"

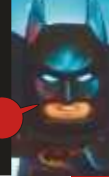


77 HOW TO TRAIN YOUR DRAGON 3

DIRECTOR Dean DeBlois **CAST** Jay Baruchel, America Ferrera, Cate Blanchett **RELEASE** 29 June 2018

IF YOU SAY you didn't cry during *HTTYD2*, we're calling it now: you are a liar. The emotional punch that was the second film in the franchise didn't do as well as the filmmakers had hoped, which has meant that the third film feels like it has been in the making forever and we're still waiting.

We don't know much, but it has been said that it is the final film in the franchise, and will see the end of the relationship between Hiccup and Toothless. We're already teary at the thought, not just because we never want the two of them to part, but because we love the franchise and we're not really ready to let go of it. If *Shrek* can keep getting sequels then Dreamworks can up their game and keep bringing back the dragons!



78 THE TICK

CREATOR Ben Edlund **CAST** Peter Serafinowicz, Griffin Newman, Valorie Curry **RELEASE** TBC

WHEN IT COMES to TV, it seems like we're increasingly living in an age of wish-fulfilment. One of the many recent examples of this is the positive critical reception doled out to Amazon's pilot episode of *The Tick*, which has been deemed warm enough to warrant a full series order.

It's the kind of news that would have unthinkable a few years back, and it even took Peter Serafinowicz – who plays the titular blue superhero – by surprise. "When I found out they were doing this new series, initially I was a bit sceptical. I think the superhero thing is so oversaturated. The idea of a comedy superhero, I thought, how is that going to work when most superhero films go from taking themselves very seriously to having a bit of fun.

"But then when I read the script and realised that Ben Edlund had written and produced it, I went oooh, actually, this is really quite special. His writing

is so beautiful, and it appeals. He has these weird, beautiful, poetic sentence that have structure and logic in them, but always feel like a complex, futuristic, monorail system. [laughs] It kind of loops in on itself, like a mobius strip of transit system. The way he writes a sentence, I've never known anyone to write like him."

Edlund's uniqueness is a reflection on *The Tick* and the world around him. Super-strong and capable of leaping huge distances with a single bound – yet vulnerable to illness. He's heroic and easy to get along with – yet obtuse and prone to making bizarre statements, not least of which is tendency to yell "SPOON!" as a battle cry of sorts. In the series his supporting cast is similarly odd, including the non-powered Arthur Everest (Griffin Newman), smug co-caper Superian (Brendan Hines), and the aged yet still pesky The Terror (Jackie Earle Haley).

Directed by Wally Pfister (*Transcendence*), the pilot exactly fits the batshit yet brilliant tone of Edlund's comics. The fact that he's helming the series is a guarantee of it, and this – the third on-screen incarnation of the show, after the 2001 live-actions series starring Patrick Warburton and the 1994 animated series – is an example of fan service gone right. For Serafinowicz, his clear enthusiasm obviously rubbed off on him. "It was quite something to be trusted with this character and to give my interpretation of him. I loved it. I just loved it. The whole thing was unlike anything I've ever done."



The Tick (Peter Serafinowicz) alongside unlucky companion Arthur Everest (Griffin Newman)



79 POWERLESS

SHOWRUNNER TBC
CAST Vanessa Hudgens, Danny Pudi, Alan Tudyk, Christina Kirk, Ron Funches
RELEASE TBC

NBC'S SUPERHERO SITCOM

Powerless has been set for release for about a million years, but a number of mysterious factors keep getting in the way. Maybe 2017 will finally be the year we see more than the trailer, because it sounds pretty great: set in an insurance claims office, the show has branded itself as a workplace comedy "with a twist", the twist being that it also takes place in the DC Comics universe.



80 THE TERROR

SHOWRUNNERS David Kajganich, Soo Hugh
CAST Jared Harris
RELEASE TBC 2017
BASED ON DAN

Simmons' fictionalised account of the doomed expeditions of the HMS Erebus and HMS Terror, AMC's new show sees the ships' crew stalked by a mysterious predator that hunts them down while they search for the Northwest Passage.



81 AMERICAN HORROR STORY

CREATORS Ryan Murphy, Brad Falchuk
CAST TBC
RELEASE TBC 2017

HAVING REDISCOVERED ITS mojo with 'Roanoke' after a couple of lacklustre seasons, co-creator Ryan Murphy has hinted at the likelihood of a crossover season featuring the characters of 'Coven' and first season 'Murder House'.



82 BLACK MIRROR

CREATOR Charlie Brooker
CAST TBC
RELEASE TBC 2017

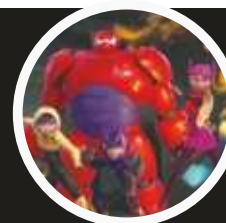
IT'S PRETTY SAFE to say that *Black Mirror*'s foray into Netflix has been a success – and it's set to continue, with a fourth series being confirmed by executive producer Annabel Jones. It's got a lot to do to make things any weirder than the world is currently...



83 EMERALD CITY

SHOWRUNNER David Schulner **CAST** Vincent D'Onofrio **RELEASE** 6 January 2017 (US)

FIRST IT WAS on – then off – then on again. The *Wizard Of Oz*-inspired series *Emerald City* is finally heading to TV. Expect a darker take on Baum's characters, with the synopsis mentioning "lethal warriors, dark magic and a bloody battle."



84 BIG HERO 6 TV SEREIS

CREATORS Mark McCorkle, Bob Schooley
CAST Ryan Potter
RELEASE TBC 2017

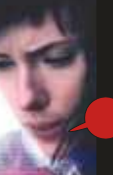
WHILE IT'S A shame that this isn't a movie sequel, the fact that most of the voice cast are returning for the series is a sweetener. It will follow the gang as Hiro struggles to combine his studies with battling new villains.



85 HANDMAID'S TALE

SHOWRUNNER Bruce Miller **CAST** Elisabeth Moss, Samira Wiley, Joseph Fiennes
RELEASE TBC 2017

HULU HASN'T EXACTLY been the most prolific network when it comes to new shows, but this latest adaptation of Margaret Atwood's classic dystopian novel could change all that.



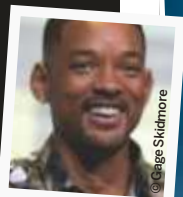
COVER FEATURE

The Geek 100

86 BRIGHT

DIRECTOR David Ayer
CAST Will Smith, Joel Edgerton **RELEASE** TBC

If you're wondering why we're covering a buddy cop movie, it's because Netflix's biggest ever original movie is set in a world where magic is real, the two cops (Will Smith and Joel Edgerton) need to track down a powerful wand, and Edgerton's character is an orc. Writer Max Landis insisted that Ayer direct.



87 PARANORMAL RESPONSE UNIT

CREATORS Taika Waititi, Jemaine Clement
CAST Karen O'Leary, Mike Minogue **RELEASE** TBC

The creators have been teasing us with a spin-off centred on *What We Do In The Shadows*' deadpan cops since its release, but it's finally been confirmed that officers O'Leary and Minogue will be back for more supernatural encounters and identifying rooms that could do with a smoke alarm.



88 GERALD'S GAME

DIRECTOR Mike Flanagan
CAST Carla Gugino, Bruce Greenwood **RELEASE** 2017

Absentia director Mike Flanagan has finally taken on King's horror novel, and we're thrilled about it. "I've been waiting to make that movie since I was 19 years old, he told us. "It's going to be wild! It might be the most challenging piece of source material in the world, but I'm just excited for everybody else to finally get to see it."



89 GET OUT

DIRECTOR Jordan Peele
CAST Daniel Kaluuya, Allison Williams, Catherine Keener **RELEASE** TBC

We're huge fans of Jordan Peele's comedy, so our interest was piqued when it was announced that he was working on a horror film. Chris (Daniel Kaluuya) heads to his white girlfriend's family home, only to discover that they have a terrible secret that may be related to the disappearance of young black men in the area...



90 RAW

DIRECTOR Julia Ducournau **CAST** Garance Miller, Ella Rumpf, Rabah Nait Oufella, Laurent Lucas **RELEASE** Spring 2017

IGNORE THE FUSS about people fainting during festival screenings of this coming-of-age cannibal movie, and focus on the fact that this is one of the best movies of its kind since *Ginger Snaps*. Julia Ducournau's debut finds a teenage girl enrolling at the same veterinary school as her sister, only to discover some strange appetites. It's clever, complex, emotional and yes, gruesome. See it.



91 GHOST IN THE SHELL

DIRECTOR Rupert Sanders **CAST** Scarlett Johansson, Takeshi Kitano, Pilou Asbaek, Juliette Binoche **RELEASE** 31 March 2017

"IT WAS ONE of those dusty DVDs that was passed around by people who are into film," remembers director Rupert Sanders. "People were like, 'Oh, you've got to see this!' Steven Spielberg had it, so I thought, 'Well I'm never going to get my hands on that but that would be amazing, to make the live action version of *Ghost In The Shell*.'"

Cut to a few years later, and we're just a few short months away from the movie's release, which sees Scarlett Johansson stepping into the role of cyborg government soldier Major and investigating a deadly hacker who may hold the key to her past. We grabbed the chance to talk to Sanders about adapting a classic.

What was the driving force behind adapting this?

One of things I really felt, as a fan of the original, was that I had to carry this sacred thing forward and try not to fuck it up. And that steered me. Is this the anime? Is this the tone of the anime? Obviously we're not just remaking the original frame for frame, we've developed a story



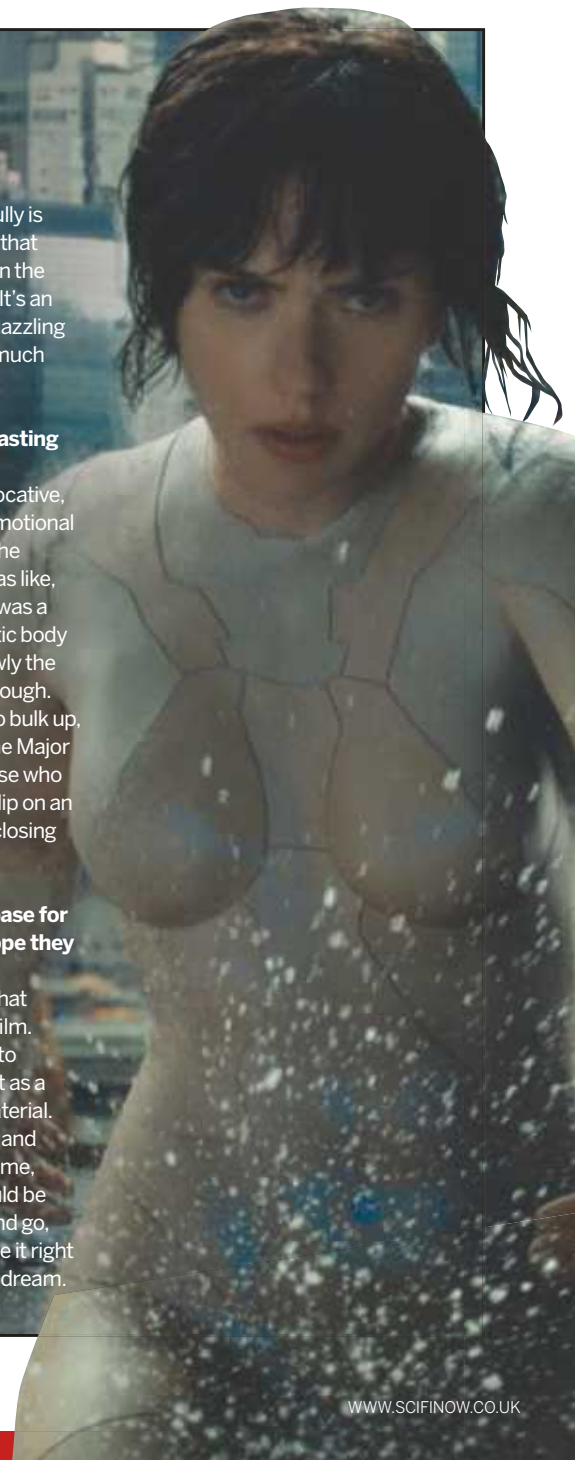
within that world that hopefully is true to the series, but I hope that we're the next step forward in the legacy of *Ghost In The Shell*. It's an action movie and a visually dazzling film, but there's something much more profound within it.

What was the process of casting the Major?

Scarlett has this great, provocative, cyberpunk, tough, sexual, emotional feminine side to her. When she first came in in costume, I was like, "Damn, that is the Major." It was a real challenge. She is a robotic body with a human mind, and slowly the humanity starts to come through. She did months of training to bulk up, she handles a weapon like the Major does, I don't know anyone else who I've seen who can fire a full clip on an automatic weapon without closing her eyes.

There's such a strong fanbase for the anime. What do you hope they take away from the film?

What means most to me is that the fans are happy with the film. I am a huge fan, and I'd hate to think that people looked on it as a misunderstanding of the material. I really love what we've done and I hope the other fans do. For me, the biggest thing for me would be a group of fans to sit there and go, "Fuck, maybe they have done it right for once." That would be my dream.





92 23 SHADES OF MCAVOY

The star and director on starting 2017 off with a bang in psychological horror *Split* WORDS: JOANNA OZDOBINSKA

DIRECTOR M Night Shyamalan **CAST** James McAvoy, Haley Lu Richardson, Anya Taylor-Joy **RELEASE** 20 January

IT SAYS A lot that no matter how many critical knockbacks he gets, M Night Shyamalan keeps getting back up. This time around, however, he's showing signs that he might be returning to the form he demonstrated earlier on in his career via the likes of *The Sixth Sense* and *Unbreakable*, rather than his more recent follies like *The Last Airbender* and *The Happening*.

His latest outing, *Split*, is keeping everyone guessing. Starring James McAvoy as Kevin, a man suffering from a serious case of split-personality disorder – 23, to be precise – we first meet him as he abducts three teenage girls: Casey (Anya Taylor-Joy), Marcia (Jessica Sula) and Claire (Haley Lu Richardson), upon which his various sides, good and bad, start to emerge. We spoke to McAvoy about working together on what is potentially the director's most ambitious outing to date...

You're playing a lot of different personalities. Do you have a favourite part that you got to play?

Yeah, it's a toss-up between Barry and Hedwig. I found Barry really easy to play, and Hedwig really difficult. Originally, it was really hard, but ultimately I had a lot of love for Hedwig. It's always fun to get to play a child, but also playing someone that the audience thinks is really innocent and sweet, but then he's actually got a little bit of a nasty thing about him too, which I quite liked.

Was playing different characters in one film different to playing them across different films?

Yeah, a little bit. People are like, "It must be so hard playing nine different characters", and I was like, "I played like 100 different characters in my career, it's just like doing my job nine times in one movie". So in



terms of effort, yeah it was different and hard, but it was just what I always have to do. The changes are the tricky part, but they're also the most exciting part to play for an actor, and pretty exciting part for an audience to watch that happen: "Ooh, he's gone into that one now". That's a pretty fascinating thing, and when I've watched people with DID switch or someone else take over, it's a mesmerizing thing to watch – an absolutely compelling moment.

Were you familiar with M Night Shyamalan's films, and what do you think of him as a director?

I think he is one of the most prepared directors I've ever worked with. Night knows that script backwards – he knows every single shot in his head before he shoots it. Lots of directors spend that time pre-visualizing, shot listing, drawing sketches and sometimes spending hundreds of thousands of pounds doing so, and at the end of the day they don't really use it. He's very particular, but because he knows the material inside out and he's got such an incredibly well thought-out vision to the end full of glee, of complexity and detail, I feel very safe going with him: "I'll go wherever you want me to go". Even when I wasn't sure about things, I'd be like "do you know what? You know this better than anybody, this is such your baby and I'll do whatever you want me to do, and if it doesn't work out we'll try something else."



93 BUSTER MAL'S HEART

DIRECTOR Sarah Adina Smith **CAST** Rami Malek, DJ Qualls, Kate Lyn Sheil **RELEASE** TBC 2017

IF YOU HAVE witnessed Rami Malek's unbelievable performances in Amazon's excellent *Mr Robot* then you will understand our excitement for the new film from Sarah Adina Smith (who previously directed the excellent *The Midnight Swim*), which sees him play a man who dreams of inhabiting two bodies – only to discover that his he isn't imagining things at all.

Not only does it give you the chance to catch Malek in something relatively low-key before he inevitably goes stratospheric; it provides a showcase for Adina Smith, who has impressed audiences at Toronto International Film Festival with what is only her second feature film.



94 THE BELKO EXPERIMENT

DIRECTOR Greg McLean **CAST** John Gallagher Jr, Tony Goldwyn, Adria Arjona **RELEASE** 17 March 2017 (US)

ANY TEAM-UP WITH the directors of *Wolf Creek* and *Guardians Of The Galaxy* will always have our attention, which is why we're so happy that *The Belko Experiment* – directed by Greg McLean and penned by James Gunn – is seeing the light of day.

Featuring a cast that includes John Gallagher Jr (*10 Cloverfield Lane*), John C McGinley (*Scrubs*) and Michael Rooker and his brother Sean, this sees a group of six officers trapped in a building with an ultimatum: kill three of their number, or they all die.

Festival reviews have been kind, describing this as something more in the vein of *Slither* than *Wolf Creek*.



© Instagram/jamesgunn



COVER FEATURE

The Geek 100

95 GAME OF THRONES

CREATORS David Benioff, DB Weiss **CAST** Kit Harington, Emilia Clarke, Peter Dinklage **RELEASE** TBC 2017

WINTER HAS ARRIVED in Westeros, and with it the potential for some of the bloodiest action we've seen this side of the Narrow Sea.

Such are the stakes now that Daenerys' forces have massed and are approaching Westeros, and the unstoppable march of the White Walkers looks to be gathering a pace, everything we've seen so far – Blackwater, the defence of the Wall, the Battle of the Bastards – seems like a dress rehearsal for what's to come.

To sow the ground for a fittingly apocalyptic setting, the traditional March/April release date has been discarded to allow more time for the snowy seasons to do their work. Where there's snow the chances are there'll be White Walkers – although they haven't faced dragons before. Let's see

how smug the Winter King is when he comes face to maw with Drogon.

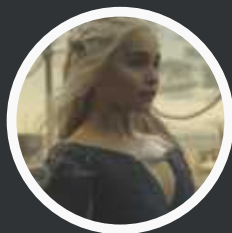
Irritatingly, script leaks have made traversing the web a hazardous experience if you want to avoid Season Seven spoilers, but you can certainly expect things to heat up from the get-go. The penultimate season will comprise just seven episodes, and considering the pace Season Six went at in its desire to off major characters, you can expect this to pick up where it left off.

As regards what's ahead, the cast have had their say. Kit Harington said in an interview with *The Hollywood Reporter* that "it's going to get very dark before it gets better", while Sophie Turner admitted to shedding a tear while reading the Season Seven script. Valar morghulis...



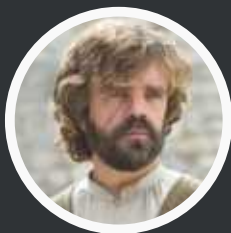
JON SNOW

Things would appear to be looking up now he's King in the North – although it's probably worth remembering what happened to the last one. Plus, he's got a White Walker army nearby, which can't be great.



DAENERYS TARGARYEN

Everything seems to be going just too well: she has the Dothraki, Unsullied and Second Sons, a big invasion fleet and alliances with the Greyjoys and Martells. Oh, and dragons. Something's got to give.



TYRION LANNISTER

As the hand to the Queen of Dragons, Tyrion is in a position of power once more. But what will we do once he lands at Westeros? We're sure he'll take the opportunity for revenge against Cersei, but what about Jaime?



96 THE WINDS OF WINTER

Come July next year, it will have been six years since *A Dance For Dragons* was released. Surely now's the time for George R.R. Martin to finish off *The Winds Of Winter*, if only to get people like us off his back. Judging by the various sample chapters he's already released, he's doing his best to outdo the show for graphic violence (read the Aeron Greyjoy chapter. It's pretty horrible). We still plan on finishing it in one marathon sitting though.



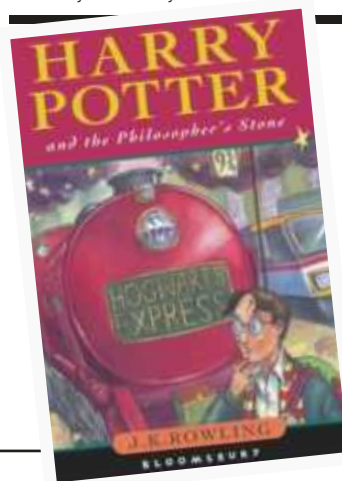
97 FANTASTIC BEASTS 2

2018

DIRECTOR David Yates **CAST** Eddie Redmayne, Johnny Depp, Zoe Kravitz
RELEASE 16 November 2018

NEWT SCAMANDER'S (EDDIE Redmayne) bittersweet departure from New York at the end of *Fantastic Beasts* left a lot of room for more adventures. For the first sequel, the magizoologist is heading to Paris, which ought to provide a wonderful backdrop for the French wizarding community.

After a fleeting appearance (undisguised, anyway) in the first film, Gellert Grindelwald (Johnny Depp) is set to shake things up a bit further, with casting for Albus Dumbledore, currently underway.



WHERE TO FIND THEM
Mapping the world's most magical creatures



ACROMANTULA



PHOENIX



BASILISK

GREECE

INDIA

BORNEO

KAPPA

JAPAN

FUJI

FIRE CRAB

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98 20 YEARS OF HARRY POTTER

TWO DECADES SOMEHOW passed by without us realising that 2017 will mark 20 years since the release of *Harry Potter And The Philosopher's Stone*, so there will no doubt be book re-reads, movie binge-watches and Hogwarts-themed parties all over the world. But if you want to attend something more organised, why not get your robes on, grab your wand and attend one of these celebratory events?

Harry Potter Book Night
2 February 2017
Worldwide
Price: Free
The Professors of Hogwarts is the theme of this year's annual, worldwide nighttime Potter celebration.

Harry Potter Exhibition
20 October 2017-28 February 2018
The British Library, London
Price: Free
The British Library is going all out for the anniversary, with more info to come.

MISTI-CON
18-22 May 2017
Laconia, New Hampshire
Price: \$135-175
This biennial Potter convention goes heavy on cosplay, and is perfect for fans that hail from the United States' east coast.

Leaky Con
31 August-3 September
Dublin, Ireland
Price: TBC
Leaky Con is a holy place for both *Harry Potter* and con enthusiasts, and it's getting even bigger for the anniversary.

"THERE WILL NO DOUBT BE BOOK RE-READS AND HOGWARTS-THEMED PARTIES ALL OVER THE WORLD"

99 DOCTOR WHO

SHOWRUNNER Steven Moffat
CAST Peter Capaldi, Pearl Mackie
RELEASE TBC 2017

SEEING AS SERIES Ten is showrunner/writer/Doctor Who enthusiast Steven Moffat's last, we're counting on him to go out with a bang. It's unclear whether this series will also be actor Peter Capaldi's last but he's certainly facing a dramatic one as the Doctor, saying that the show will take him to the forefront of the cosmic battlefield. He's also getting a new friend as Pearl Mackie joins the show as Bill. Described by the actress as "funny and geeky and vulnerable", she sounds like she fits the bill (excuse us) for *Doctor Who* companions, and we can't wait to see her get started.



100 AMERICAN GODS

CREATORS Bryan Fuller, Michael Green **CAST** Ricky Whittle, Emily Browning, Ian McShane, Pablo Schreiber
RELEASE TBC 2017

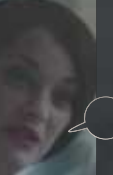
AFTER HANNIBAL'S PREMATURE (in our eyes, anyway) cancellation last summer, a major factor in our excitement for *American Gods* is that Bryan Fuller is acting as a showrunner alongside Michael Green. That alone basically ensures that it's going to be good.

The other major factor is simply that it's *American Gods*. We've been not so secretly hoping for a screen adaptation of Neil Gaiman's magical novel for years, but we always thought it would come in the form of a film. But a TV series just makes sense. It's a beefy book with a huge cast of characters; there's no way anyone – including Bryan Fuller – could condense it down to a two-hour story and still do it justice.

As far as our immense excitement is concerned, there's also the amazing

cast list. *The 100*'s Ricky Whittle and *Sucker Punch*'s Emily Browning are set to play husband-and-wife team Shadow and Laura Moon, while the amazing likes of Ian McShane, Crispin Glover, Gillian Anderson, Pablo Schreiber, Cloris Leachman and more are all on board as supporting characters. This is our ultimate TV heaven.





BIG MOVIE

Assassin's Creed

“I KNEW THAT I DIDN'T WANT
TO BE ON A GREEN-SCREEN
STAGE FOR SIX MONTHS
GETTING BORED SHITLESS”
JUSTIN KURZEL



KILLING TIME

MICHAEL FASSBENDER, MARION COTILLARD & JUSTIN KURZEL TELL US WHY ASSASSIN'S CREED IS THE VIDEOGAME MOVIE TO BREAK THE CURSE

WORDS JONATHAN HATFULL

THERE'S AN IMAGE THAT EVERYONE WHO HAS EVER PLAYED – OR EVEN WATCHED SOMEONE PLAY – AN ASSASSIN'S CREED GAME WILL RECOGNISE: A HOODED MAN

plunging from a great height, only to emerge unscathed. The leap of faith, an unbelievable feat, was one that director Justin Kurzel was determined to recreate as authentically as possible for his film.

"Definitely not!" exclaims Michael Fassbender when we ask if he ever thought about attempting the stunt himself. "I would die! And anybody in this room would too! I do [stunts] where I can do it, so there's a lot of me [in the film], but I said, 'Would I be able to do that?' and the stunt coordinator said, 'Absolutely not!' He's not on a wire; this is freefall."

"I knew that I didn't want to be on a green-screen stage for six months getting bored shitless," explains Kurzel.

"I wanted to be able to do a lot of these stunts for real, and go to places where we could do these things for real. We got the best stunt guys, parkour guys and slackline guys in the world, and we had an Olympic team of athletes who came and discovered what was possible for a human being to do. Sometimes we discovered in a very painful way that it wasn't, and other

times it was amazing. We only have one take because it was so dangerous, and you suddenly realise that your body could take you from there to there. It was important that the world was grounded as much as possible, and that the stunts felt human and it wasn't people in tights floating in the air on green screens; that you actually felt the effort of what we're doing."

That kind of commitment is what you might expect from the creative team that brought you 2015's fantastically gritty and atmospheric *Macbeth*, with Kurzel, Fassbender and Marion Cotillard getting the gang back together, and it's the attitude that makes us more excited about a videogame adaptation. We all know that these kind of movies have a tradition of being pretty dire, with the otherwise brilliant Duncan Jones' *Warcraft* being the



latest film to disappoint critically (although not commercially, as Fassbender points out with a grin. "They made money, though, didn't they? So in a way he'd say that it did work!"). *Assassin's Creed* has the kind of pedigree to convince us that this could be something different.

"Well, both movies have a strong theme of violence," Cotillard tells us. "And I was so happy that I could reunite with this amazing team on a very different project, but still with a very deep questioning about violence and how human beings deal with violence."

For Fassbender, *Assassin's Creed* represents the culmination of a five-year journey to bring the game to the big screen, and he's excited to show his baby off to the world. "Yeah, it's like a big baby now," he tells us. "Started in 2011, so it's been a journey." However, neither he, Kurzel or Cotillard had played the game before they were introduced to the possibility of a film. "I thought it was a videogame where you just shoot people, and then one of my friends was absolutely mad at me for thinking it was that kind of game!" laughs Cotillard. "She explained to me that it was much more than that, and you really dive into history." >>

ASSASSIN'S CREED: A GLOSSARY

ABSTERGO

The sinister corporation that is investigating the possibilities of regression. They're the modern-day Templars, and want the Assassins wiped out.

THE BLEEDING EFFECT

If a subject spends too much time in the past, their present and historical personalities can begin to merge, normally resulting in insanity.

THE ANIMUS

The device that allows the subject to regress into their lives of their ancestors. The movie has made it more visual.



LEAP OF FAITH

The classic Assassin's manoeuvre, jumping off an extremely high structure into something like a cart full of hay and emerging unscathed. Textbook. And terrifying.



TEMPLARS

Not exactly like the real-world Templars, although certainly based on them. These are the guys that run the world, and have big plans for humanity.



➤ That plunge into the past was the common enticing thread that each of the principals found in the project. "I met the guys from Ubisoft, and they started to explain the premise and the world of *Assassin's Creed*, and I just thought it was fascinating," Fassbender remembers. "The concept of DNA memory, how we carry it from our ancestors similar to the way a bird might know when and how to migrate south for winter, seemed like a feasible scientific theory to me, and that was the first thing that really made me sit up, listen and think, 'Okay.' To take a film like this, with this large-scale fantasy universe and action, that can be seated in a real scientific theory like that, elevates it past so many of these other types of movies.

And I thought the whole universe of Templars and Assassins would lend itself very easily to a cinematic experience."

Fassbender was so committed to the idea that he joined

the film as a producer, and took on the task of tracking down the perfect director himself. "He came to me when we were editing *Macbeth*," remembers Kurzel, who made his debut with the incredible Australian thriller *Snowtown*. "I wasn't familiar with the game, so he just pitched the story and the concept of it, and then he introduced me to the producers at Ubisoft. It was fantastic, I was taken through the game by fans and by players, and I became really passionate about the ideas in it, the ideologies of free will versus order and control. And then Ubisoft just went, 'Now go and make the film.' It was really independent, they just went, 'Go and make this movie, and turn it into an experience that offers up something different than the games do.'"

Indeed, fans of the games will notice that there are plenty of changes. For starters, Fassbender is not playing the series' regular protagonist Desmond Miles, but a new character called Callum Lynch, a death-row inmate who wakes up after his 'lethal injection' inside the walls of the Abstergo facility. There, he is told by

scientist Dr Sophia Rikkin (Cotillard) that he's about to be a part of something very special. With the help of the Animus (now a Terry Gilliam-looking device that flails you around the room, as opposed to the 'dentist's chair' of the games), Callum can travel back into the life of his ancestors, namely 15th-century, badass assassin Aguilar, who battled against the Templars.

"Callum is definitely a lone wolf," Fassbender tells us. "He's quite a selfish character, and as we get to know him we understand that he's had to take care of himself from a very young age, and he depends on nobody and he doesn't really give himself up much for anybody else. So he'll learn through his experience and struggle that he does belong to something far greater than himself, and that he has a family beyond his immediate bloodline, which has been taken away from him. He's been thrown into a position where he's actually a leader, and he's got to accept the responsibility and to take on that mantle. Aguilar is going to teach him that."

As interesting as Callum's journey will be, it's Aguilar who has really grabbed our attention in the footage that we've seen so far. He's the one leaping from church towers, cutting throats and fighting the powers that be, alongside the similarly bad-ass Maria (*The Lobster's* Ariane Labed), who Kurzel describes as "not a love interest; she's a co-warrior. She helps him out of more sticky situations than he does to her!" The more time Callum spends in the animus with Aguilar, the more he'll start to realise his true potential.

"Aguilar belongs to something and is quite selfless in the way he approaches

“I THOUGHT THE UNIVERSE OF
TEMPLARS AND ASSASSINS
WOULD LEND ITSELF EASILY
TO A CINEMATIC EXPERIENCE”
MICHAEL FASSBENDER



his life,” enthuses Fassbender. “He is dedicated to his cause, and is willing to sacrifice himself for the cause. In the regression, Cal will be experiencing what Aguilar’s experiencing, but because of the bleeding effect, Aguilar will visit him outside of the regressions as well. And what starts off as Cal’s denial of this will become an acceptance, and then eventually he’ll embrace this position.”

While the games mostly take place in the past, Fassbender tells us that there’s much more of an even split here between Cal undergoing his trials in the Abstergo facility under the watchful eye of Sophia’s sinister father, Alan Rikkin (Jeremy Irons) and Aguilar fighting to complete his mission for the Assassins, which was shot on location in Spain and Malta.

“It’s about 60 per cent in modern day, 40 per cent regressions, roughly,” he explains. “The regressions are a lot of our action pieces, so once we hit the ground in Spain, we’re running. To find the drama and the psychological intrigue, we had

to place a lot of that in the present day. Sometimes it’s nice to just run around and jump off things, but then it’s also nice to deal with a lot of these battles that we wanted to tackle from the game, which is what the Templars stand for and what the Assassins stand for, and to find that in a modern-day context was pretty challenging, but interesting.”

Fassbender confirms that there is a hopeful plan for a trilogy of *Assassin’s Creed* movies, but obviously it all depends on the reaction of the masses, as well as the hardcore fanbase. “I’m very confident that the gamers will appreciate what we’ve done,” states Fassbender. “There are things that we absolutely wanted to respect, but I think they want you to make some bold choices. The gamers are a pretty fun bunch, and they’re very passionate from my experience of interacting with them, and they like to be surprised.”

Assassin’s Creed will be released in cinemas on 1 January 2017.

KILLER QUEEN Marion Cotillard on Assassin's Creed's sensitive scientist



What can you tell us about Sophia?

She’s a scientist, and she has faith in the fact that she can find a cure for violence. So she’s entirely dedicated to her work, and she’s a very sensitive person. What’s interesting with her is this the struggle inside of her. She has this very strong faith, but she also has doubts about people who are surrounding her, and it creates this kind of struggle that adds to

her complexity, which is interesting for an actor.

Is there conflict with her work and her loyalty to her father?

Yeah, loyalty towards her father and the whole society of Templars. She’s a Templar, so she respects where she comes from, but the most important thing to her is to achieve and to reach what she wants to achieve. It’s a lifetime’s work. She’s dedicated her life to this, she has no kids, she has no man, and she thinks it’s a good thing, and she might be right. Finding a cure for violence is a noble quest, even if it’s kind of a utopia for a scientist. It was interesting

to portray a person who I can understand, but who I think misses the point.

How did Michael and Justin pitch you on the film?

Well, I knew that they were writing because they wrote the script very close to my house in the south of France, so I would see them when they were writing the script, and I was not involved at all at that point. I really had a very narrow idea of what the game was, and I read the script and I thought it was very interesting. I loved my character, and the idea of working with Michael and Justin again weighed very heavily on my decision.

CELEBRATION

Spielberg A-Z

ON 18 DECEMBER,
WE CELEBRATE
THE 70TH
BIRTHDAY
OF PERHAPS
CINEMA'S
MOST ICONIC
DIRECTOR. HERE,
WE EXAMINE
THE INFLUENCE
AND WONDER
OF STEVEN
SPIELBERG...



Steven Spielberg

WORDS
JONATHAN HATFULL,
STEVE WRIGHT





A is for Amblin
There's something special about seeing that Amblin title card at the start of a movie. It's a jolt of nostalgia, it's a guarantee of quality... well, very nearly a guarantee. Spielberg's production company doesn't have a 100 per cent hit rate, but in addition to The Beard's own films (since *ET*, anyway), it has also given us movies as different as Martin Scorsese's *Cape Fear* remake and *Monster House*. The Amblin slate shows just how varied Spielberg's tastes are, and how his superb taste and business acumen combine to make him one of Hollywood's biggest players. And it's named after his first finished short film, which he made in 1968, which is still adorable.

B is for Blockbusters
Spielberg invented the blockbuster as we know it today with the incredible success of *Jaws*. The amount of money the film raked in (\$14 million in its opening week) was huge at the time, and it refused to disappear. It expanded into more screens, piling up more and more money, and quickly became a sensation. When *Star Wars* hit big two years later, the model was set.

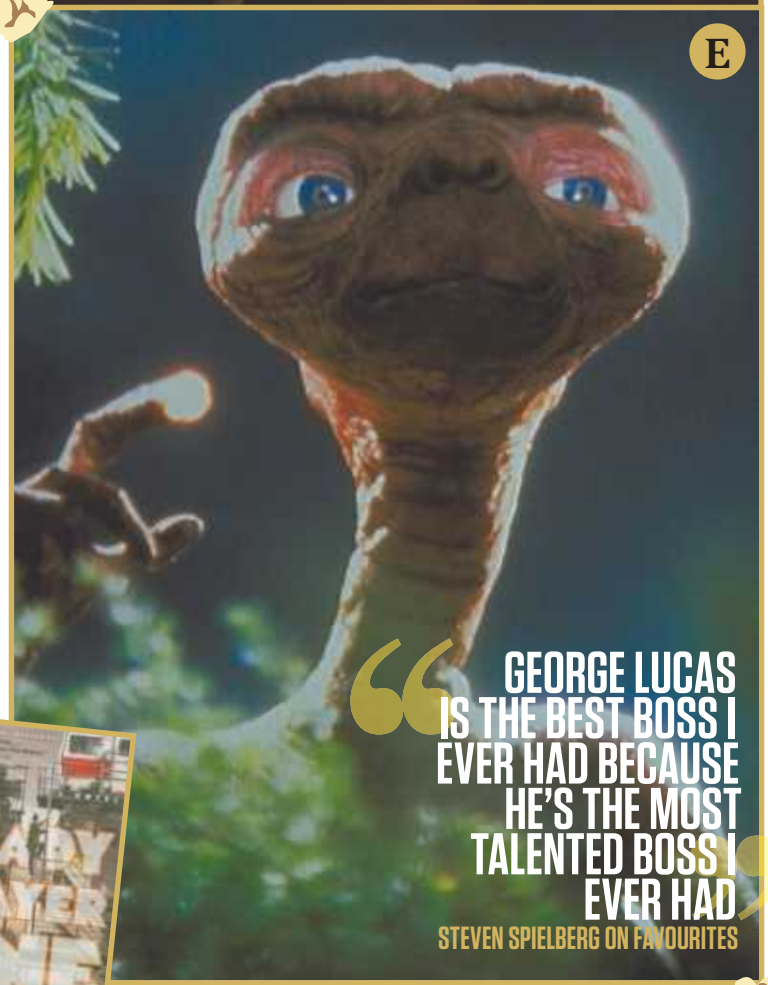


C is for Close Encounters
It was his passion project, the movie he leveraged the success of *Jaws* for, and the first-contact movie he'd been dreaming about since he was a kid. It may not have been an easy film to make, but *Close Encounters Of The Third Kind* offers the kind of pure wonder that cinema was made for.

D is for Duel
Duel is a tremendous early example of Spielberg's skill as a filmmaker, with a brilliant script by Richard Matheson and a superb leading turn from Dennis Weaver. The story of a man being chased by a relentless truck driver, it's a near-perfect piece of extended cinematic tension. An ordinary situation escalates into something terrifying, and terrifyingly plausible.

E is for ET: The Extra-Terrestrial
For many of us, *ET* remains the quintessential Spielberg film. *Jaws* may have the terror, *Jurassic Park* may have the spectacle, and *Close Encounters* may have the awe, but *ET* shows off the filmmaker's big beating heart. It's the film that really demonstrates his ability to tell stories about children, as Elliott (Henry Thomas) and his siblings discover, help and learn from this amazing creature from beyond the stars, with next to no intervention from adults. It's the kid's journey every step of the way. On top of that, there's John Williams' incredible score, Carlo Rambaldi's remarkable creature design, and that amazing blend of humour, heart and wonder. Every time that bicycle takes to the sky our heart sings.

F is for Future
Spielberg's upcoming slate is absolutely packed. Once *Ready Player One* is all wrapped up, he's got drama *The Kidnapping Of Edgardo* ➔



THE LIFE AND TIMES OF STEVEN ALLAN SPIELBERG FROM 1946 AND BEYOND

We track the Beard's life from his birth through his successes and flops up to his 70th birthday

18 DECEMBER 1946

Spielberg is born in Cincinnati, Ohio to Arnold Spielberg and Leah Posner. He would make his first home movie at the age of 12.



© Mr RING Andersen

18 DECEMBER 1968

Spielberg releases his first completed short, *Amblin*, and Universal's Sid Sheinberg signs him to a seven-year deal, making him the youngest director signed to a contract by a major studio.

8 NOVEMBER 1969

The pilot for Rod Serling's anthology series *Night Gallery* airs, featuring a segment directed by the 21-year-old Spielberg. Star Joan Crawford was offended by her director's youth, but quickly changed her tune and enthused about his work to Serling and the producers.

13 NOVEMBER 1971

Spielberg's brilliant TV movie *Duel* airs on ABC, further confirming his status as a filmmaker to watch.



CELEBRATION

Spielberg A-Z



H

➤ *Mortara*, biopic *It's What I Do*, and there's *Indiana Jones 5* set for 2019 release. We're still holding out hope for his indefinitely postponed adaptation of *Robopocalypse*, and of course he's producing *Jurassic World 2* and *Transformers 5*. Yep, he's as busy as ever.

G is for Good guys

While you can definitely argue that he doesn't exclusively make movies about nice guys, you're always going to be more likely to find a good-hearted Spielberg hero than not. He favours the blue-collar guy, the family man, the single mum, the misfit kid and, occasionally, the wisecracking rogue with a heart of gold. He's a filmmaker who roots for the little guy.



J

©ChrisDevers

H is for Hook

No, it's not Spielberg's finest hour, but anyone who doesn't respond to the word "Rufio" by shouting "Rufio!" back is almost certainly dead inside. It's an overblown toybox, and that's exactly why we love it. Robin Williams' performance is an absolute joy, Bob Hoskins' Smee is note perfect, the *Lost Boys* were joyous... We will always hold it in a special, nostalgic place in our hearts, even if the critics don't. *Bangarang*, Peter.

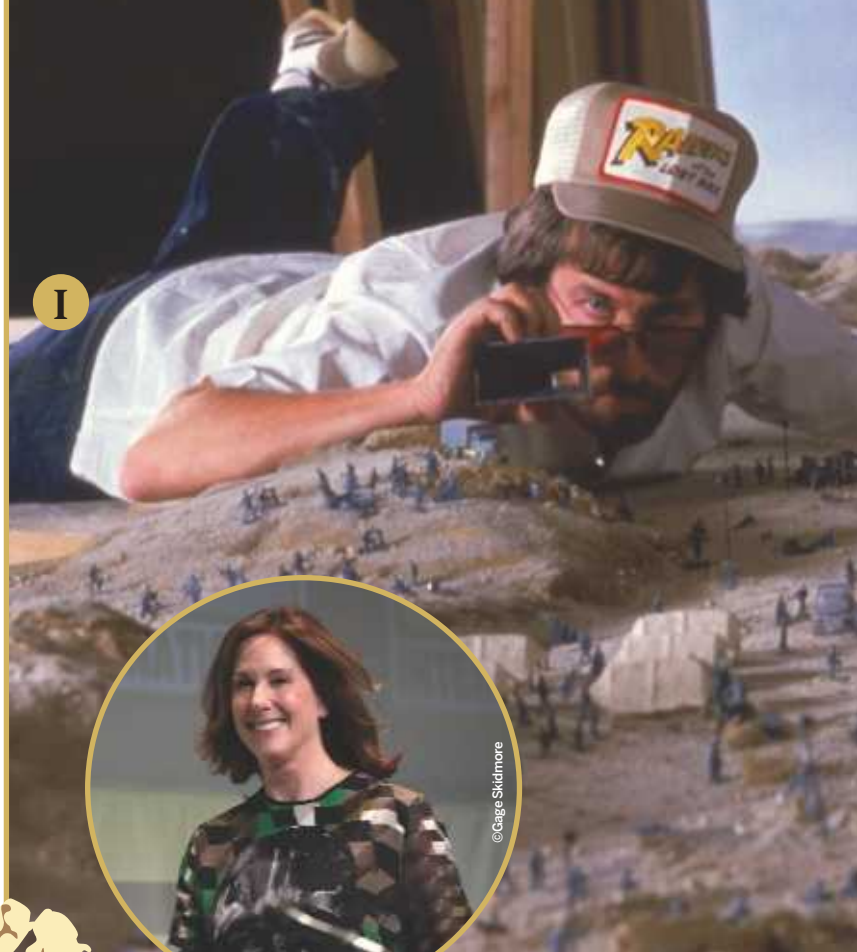
I is for Indiana Jones

What is there left to say about *Indiana Jones*? After three stunning films (and one that, in all honesty, we're still trying to forget) the character feels as fresh and essential as ever. He's the perfect pulp adventure hero played by the only actor who could get him right. He's principled, but he's not perfect. He's funny, but he's all business. He's a professor who doubles as a treasure hunter, and he can take a punch as well as he can give one. A true icon. Just don't mention snakes.

J is for John Williams

You can't talk about Steven Spielberg without talking about John Williams. The composer is responsible for the soundtrack to so many of our treasured childhood memories, and continues to be such a vital and wonderful part of the filmmaker's work.

Williams had already won his first Oscar for *Fiddler On The Roof* when Spielberg approached him to work on *The Sugarland Express*, but it was their second collaboration that really cemented how they could complement each other. The iconic *Jaws* theme is hewn into the rock of pop culture, and the same is true of his work on *ET*, *Jurassic Park*, *Raiders Of The Lost Ark* and more. It's truly the perfect combination of director and composer, as they share an innate understanding of story, theme and audience.



I

K



M



©Joi

5 APRIL 1974

The Sugarland Express is released by Universal Pictures as Spielberg makes his theatrical feature debut, directing Goldie Hawn, Ben Johnson and William Atherton in the true crime drama.



20 JUNE 1975

After a torturous and seemingly cursed production, *Jaws* is released in cinemas and becomes a phenomenon, defining the modern blockbuster. Spielberg can do no wrong, and he resists offers to make *Jaws 2*, *Superman* and *King Kong*.

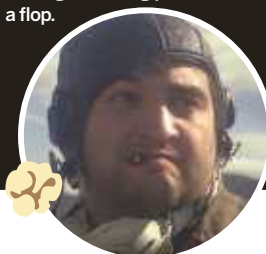
16 NOVEMBER 1977

Passion project *Close Encounters Of The Third Kind* is released in theatres and will make \$300 million.



13 DECEMBER 1979

Spielberg tries comedy with the raucous *1941*. It doesn't exactly tank, but the reviews are terrible, and it only makes a small profit, leading to it being perceived as a flop.

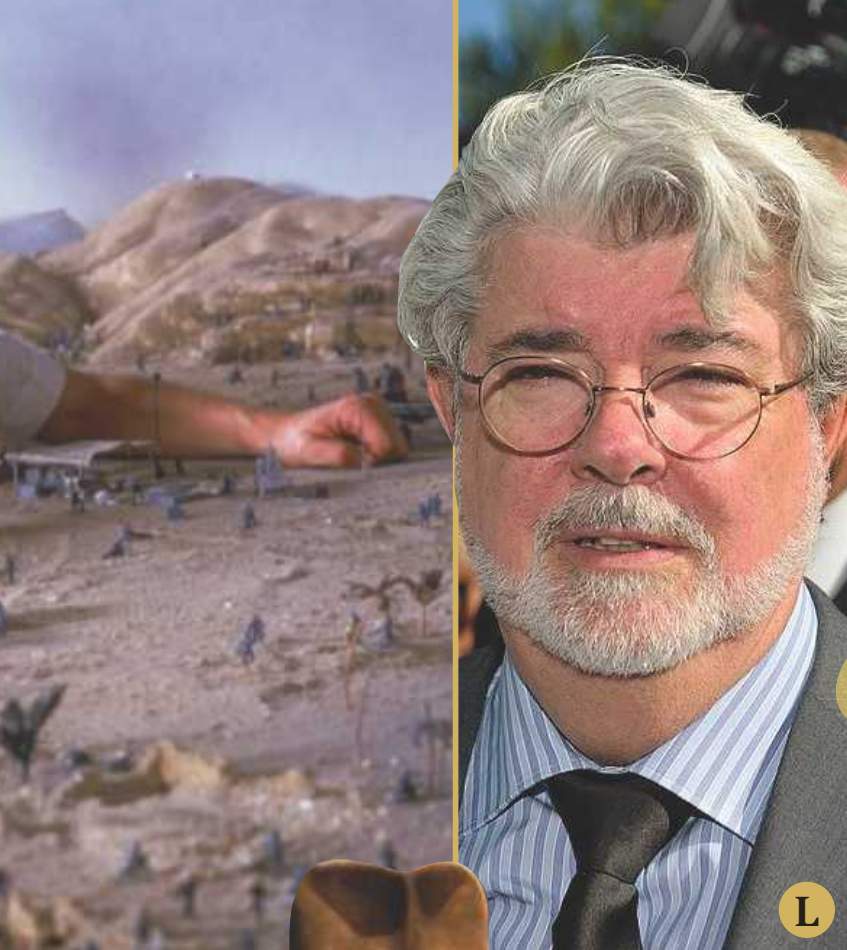


12 JUNE 1981

Raiders Of The Lost Ark premieres, and Spielberg bounces back in the biggest possible way. A franchise is born. In the same year he founds Amblin Entertainment with Kathleen Kennedy and Frank Marshall.

SPIELBERG A-Z

Steven Spielberg



K is for Kathleen Kennedy
One of the most powerful producers in Hollywood got her start working with Spielberg on 1941, beginning one of the most important director-producer collaborations in movie history. She got her first producer credit on *ET*, co-founded Amblin, and went on to work on some of the greatest and highest-grossing films ever made. Her iconic status was further solidified when she was chosen by George Lucas to lead Lucasfilm after he stepped aside. She's a legend.

"I'LL PROBABLY NEVER WIN AN OSCAR, BUT I'LL HAVE A LOT OF FUN! I REALLY BELIEVE THAT MOVIES ARE THE GREAT ESCAPE!"
STEVEN SPIELBERG BEING WRONG

©Nicolas Genin

L is for Lucas
Out of Spielberg's many collaborators over the years, his friendship with George Lucas is perhaps one of the best known. The two worked together on all four *Indiana Jones* films, and the two have constantly had a friendly rivalry, with Spielberg famously entering into a bet to trade 2.5 per cent of the gross for *Close Encounters* with the same percentage of what *Star Wars* would make, netting him a cool \$40 million in the process (even though Spielberg later refused to direct the prequel trilogy). With a fifth *Indy* movie on the way, their partnership isn't over just yet.

M is for Mentor
Spielberg's fingerprints exist not only in his films; they live on in those he has influenced. The likes of Robert Zemeckis, Joe Dante, Chris Columbus,



Frank Marshall and Michael Bay have all had their films steadied by his guiding hand, while anyone who's seen *Super 8* or *Midnight Special* will observe how much JJ Abrams and Jeff Nichols owe him.

N is for Newcomers
Many a young actor has benefited from the guiding tutelage of Spielberg. Take *ET*, which provided a basis for the future careers of Henry Thomas and Drew Barrymore; Joseph Mazzelli in *Jurassic Park*; the young cast members of *The Goonies* and *Super 8*, and more recently Ruby Barnhill, who so often stole the show from her giant-sized co-star in *The BFG*.

O is for Oscars
Four of them. In addition to Best Director wins for *Saving Private Ryan* and *Schindler's List*, he took home Best Picture for the latter, and the 1987 Irving G Thalberg Memorial Award. Despite nominations for *ET*, *Raiders Of The Lost Ark* and *Close Encounters Of The Third Kind*, none of his genre output has quite made the cut.

P is for Poltergeist
Despite Tobe Hooper being credited as director, over the years people working on the cult horror have claimed that Spielberg's role was greater than he let on. Indeed, it's easy to see in this plenty of the director's hallmarks: the family unit under attack, unexplained occurrences of the supernatural, and a subversive examination of small-town suburbia. ➤

11 JUNE 1982

ET is released and goes on to gross \$792.9 million worldwide. Acclaim is universal, and the film's popularity is reflected in the huge profits Hershey's saw from the use of Reese's Pieces. In the same year he produces (and is rumoured to co-direct) Tobe Hooper's smash hit horror *Poltergeist*.

8 MAY 1984

Indiana Jones returns with the much darker *Temple Of Doom*. Reviews are less positive, and Spielberg later described it as his least favourite of the trilogy.



18 DECEMBER 1985

Spielberg changes pace a little with his adaptations of Alice Walker's *The Colour Purple* and JG Ballard's *Empire Of The Sun*.



24 MAY 1989

Sean Connery joins Harrison Ford for *Indiana Jones And The Last Crusade*, the triumphant conclusion to the *Indy* trilogy. Reviews are generally positive and it betters *Temple Of Doom* at the box office.



11 DECEMBER 1991

Spielberg bets big on *Hook*. It makes money, but it is a financial and critical disappointment given the talent involved and the amount of work that went into it.



X



S



Z



P



U



Q

is for Quotes

Inspirational musings from the man himself:

"When I grow up, I still want to be a director."

"I don't dream at night, I dream at day, I dream all day; I'm dreaming for a living."

"Filmmaking is all about appreciating the talents of the people you surround yourself with and knowing you could never have made any of these films by yourself."

"Only a generation of readers will span a generation of writers."

"Technology can be our best friend, and technology can also be the biggest party pooper of our lives."

R

is for Richard Dreyfuss

One of the director's key muses, his characters are consistently unforgettable; essentially everymen thrown into larger-than-life situations. Whether you remember him best as plucky oceanographer Hooper in *Jaws*, oh-so-selfish dad Roy Neary in *Close Encounters*, or guardian angel Pete Sandich in *Always*, he manages to consistently channel the virtues that Spielberg espouses through his films.

S

is for Struzan

Renowned for his capacity to effortlessly a sense of wonder and nostalgia for a bygone age, it's hard to imagine a poster artist who is as much a perfect fit for Spielberg as Drew Struzan. To the left are some of his and Spielberg's greatest collaborations.

11 JUNE 1993

Jurassic Park scores in all the areas where *Hook* missed. It's the perfect blend of terror and wonder, technology and heart, and it dominates the box-office in 1993. *Schindler's List* would be released in December and would win him his first Best Director Oscar.

12 OCTOBER 1994

Together with Jeffrey Katzenberg and David Geffen, Spielberg forms production company DreamWorks Pictures.



19 MAY 1997

Spielberg makes a rare sequel with *The Lost World: Jurassic Park*, which is a huge financial success despite poor reviews from critics. His historical drama *Amistad*, released later that year, is a critical success and a financial disappointment.

24 JULY 1998

Saving Private Ryan is released, garnering rave reviews and becoming the highest grossing film of 1998. Spielberg wins his second Best Director Oscar.



29 JUNE 2001

The director brought Stanley Kubrick's unrealised adaptation of *Super-Toys Last All Summer Long* to the big screen, as *AI: Artificial Intelligence* is dedicated to the late director. Reception was mixed at the time, but it has become increasingly well regarded.



"I'D RATHER DIRECT THAN PRODUCE. ANY DAY. AND TWICE ON SUNDAY"

STEVEN SPIELBERG ON PREFERENCES

T is for TV

It isn't just the small screen that has benefited from Spielberg. In addition to helming episodes of *Night Gallery* and *Amazing Stories*, he has crafted some masterworks of the form, like generation-spanning *Taken* and war drama *Band Of Brothers*, with more recent examples to bear his name including *Falling Skies*, *Under The Dome*, *Extant*, *The River* and *Terra Nova*.

U is for Universal

Perhaps fittingly for a filmmaker whose themes are so... well, universal, the studio has been home to many of the director's greatest genre outings. *ET*, *Jaws* and *Jurassic Park* were all borne from this fruitful collaboration, and he even serves as a consultant for the Universal Studios theme parks, most notably providing the introduction for the *ET* ride.

V is for Velociraptors

Looking back at *Jurassic Park*, it's important to remember not only how brilliant it was, but how much it altered our view of what was possible to experience on the big screen. It says a lot that 23 years on, it doesn't look like it has aged a day, such are the brilliance of the effects. Speaking of the dinosaurs, under Spielberg's watch we experienced animals that were not only terrifying; they were relatable in some way. They weren't just mindless monsters; they were working in tandem to survive, with the humans in their way. We'll never see its likes again.

W is for Wonder

ET levitating the bikes; Billy Guiler's look of awe; Alan Grant and Ellie Satler seeing their first dinosaurs; David's permanent aura of intrigued beguilement, and on the flipside, the horrors witnessed by Rachel Ferrier in *War Of The Worlds*. Back to our childhoods we go.

X marks the spot

In the grand tradition of the treasure map, so many of Spielberg's films have an end goal in sight. Sometimes it's literal, like the map in *The Goonies*, or the mysterious mound in *Close Encounters* – or it's something more metaphorical, like Peter's quest to regress in *Hook*, or *ET* phoning home. At others, it's getting the hell out of there, like in *Jurassic Park*.

Y is for Youth

So many of Spielberg's films are rites of passages, much of it explored through the wide-eyed wonder of children. Think Elliot's horizon-expanding encounter in *ET*, the Goonies' last big adventure and the childhood-defining events of *Super 8*. Equally, age isn't a barrier to danger. Remember the doomed Alex in *Jaws*, or the hard time Christian Bale's Jim has in *Empire Of The Sun*.

Z is for Zoom

Spielberg's films are masterclasses in shooting and editing, and nowhere is this highlighted the most than in the now-infamous scene in *Jaws* where Chief Brody (Roy Scheider) watches helplessly as young Alex Kintner is devoured before his eyes. Later referred to as the 'dolly zoom', Brody stays in place while the background moves towards the camera – a move that has been much-emulated since.



T



V



X



Y

©Universal

19 JUNE 2002

Minority Report is the first of two Spielberg films of the year (with *Catch Me If You Can*), and the gripping sci-fi thriller is well reviewed and a box office success.



29 JUNE 2005

After taking a drama break with 2004's *The Terminal*, Spielberg returned to sci-fi with his adaptation of HG Wells' classic *War Of The Worlds*, reteaming with his *Minority Report* star Tom Cruise. He would also release his Mossad thriller *Munich* in December.



22 MAY 2008

Spielberg, Lucas, Ford and Karen Allen return for *Indiana Jones And The Kingdom Of The Crystal Skull*. The film is a huge financial success, but critical reaction is mixed and fan reaction is poor.

21 DECEMBER 2011

Spielberg's long-awaited *Tintin* adaptation hits cinemas just four days before his film of *War Horse*. The motion-captured *The Adventures Of Tintin* does reasonably well, but the collaboration with Peter Jackson has yet to spawn the promised sequels.



1 JULY 2016

Following 2012's *Lincoln* and 2015's *Bridge Of Spies*, Spielberg steps back into family fantasy with his film of Roald Dahl's *The BFG*. Despite strong reviews, the film disappoints financially in the US.





STAGE SEVEN AT BARRANDOV STUDIOS IN PRAGUE IS BLANKETED IN FAKE SNOW. THERE ARE TERRACES AND CRENELATED BATTLEMENTS. ASHES are strewn on the ground and vampire corpses litter the walkways. It seems that this place, the courtyard of a Nordic castle that plays a central role in the fifth *Underworld* film, *Blood Wars*, might host a brutal battle between the vampires and their Lycan foe.

The film's director, Anna Foerster, is still putting her film together when we meet, but she's excited about the epic battles that will rip through her entry in the vamps-versus-werewolves saga. She is a huge fan of the first two *Underworld* films, directed by Len Wiseman, and wants to conjure a similar spirit.

"I love the first two *Underworld* movies," she says, her breath pluming in the chilly Prague air. "The third one is a little bit of a different story, and I'm not so keen on the last one, to be honest. But *Underworld* is a really exciting world that gives amazing opportunities, visually and creatively."

Those opportunities, she says, extend to the action. Big battles fill her with thrills. "Because we have a lot of action scenes, it was very clear to me that every single one has to be different. There has to be different styles in every sequence so that *Blood Wars* is not like just another action film."

Foerster cut her teeth as a cinematographer, working for Roland Emmerich on a whole host of films stretching back to *Independence Day*. She has also worked as the second unit director on *Alien: Resurrection*, *The Day After Tomorrow* and *Æon Flux* among others. *Underworld: Blood Wars* is her feature debut.

Her background, she says, allows her to bring a unique visual concept to her *Underworld* film. It might change in the edit, but currently she has at least five scenes, including one action sequence, that have been shot in one take.

"You have rules that are very specific for the franchise, but you can veer off from that," she says. "You can create new roles and new looks, which we do for our story. Plus, we have different vampires that have a different look." Those vampires are found in the north.

Foerster's film picks up where the last film, *Underworld: Awakening*, left off. Last time out, Kate Beckinsale's Death Dealer vampire, Selene, discovered that she had a daughter, Eve, with her former lover, Michael Corvin, and at the end of the film the reunited mother and daughter embarked on a hunt for the missing father.

THE UNENDING CONFLICT BETWEEN THE VAMPIRES AND LYCANS IS RAGING ON IN UNDERWORLD: BLOOD WARS, WHICH SEES KATE BECKINSALE ONCE AGAIN RETURN AS THE ASS-KICKING SELENE. WE SPOKE TO HER AND THE REST OF THE CAST ON THE PRAGUE SET OF THIS LATEST SUPERNATURAL SMACKDOWN...

WORDS WILL LAWRENCE

In *Blood Wars*, the mother-daughter team get separated early on and Selene meets up with another ally from *Awakening*, David (played by Theo James), and their adventures steer them to a vampire coven in the far north. "There will be some surprises, and the new vampires have different capabilities," the director says.

Indeed, these northern vampires are a peace-loving folk, as Beckinsale explains when she joins us on the battlements of the Nordic coven. "They are pretty Zen," the actress says. "They are peace-loving, but they can rise to the occasion if they have to." Needless to say, they absolutely have to. "But they are a different, sort of witchy-type vampire that you've never seen before," she adds.

The northern coven is forced into combat courtesy of Marius's scheming. Marius (Tobias Menzies) is a Super Lycan in the mould of Lucian (Michael Sheen), the first of the breed. Marius's lust for power sees him seek the blood of both Selene and Eve, which when imbibed will grant him unsurpassable abilities. He strikes at Eve first of all.

And with her daughter missing and Michael still unaccounted for, things look bleak for Selene. "At the beginning



Theo James is back as David.

of the movie Selene is absolutely ready to die," Beckinsale concedes. "And for someone who has fought so hard for her life, this is a crazy place for her to be. It also makes her really dangerous."

"It's great, though," she continues. "I think that is one of the things that made it worth making another film. Selene always goes through different things, and the stakes are always different, and you find out much more about the character each time."

"The physicality is not a new thing — she is not suddenly going to have a limp and glass eye; she is kind of who she is — but if you are going to see the same character, you want to see her go through new challenges."

And those challenges extend beyond the shift in character. "There are fewer >>>

"THERE WILL BE SOME SURPRISES, AND THE NEW VAMPIRES WILL HAVE DIFFERENT CAPABILITIES"
ANNA FOERSTER



This time it's Anna Foerster in the director's chair



SET VISIT

Underworld: Blood Wars

BONDED BY BLOOD



SET VISIT

Underworld: Blood Wars

BLOODLINES

What goes into the Ultimate Monster Killer

SELENE (Underworld)
Vampire/Corvinus hybrid

Formerly a bad-ass vampire, Selene's killer instincts have been doubled thanks to the addition of the ancient Corvinus virus, which makes her immune to sunlight. Useful when you're fighting Lycans and the vampires who betrayed you.



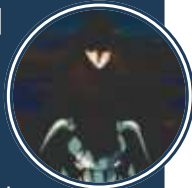
BLADE (Blade)
Half vampire

Because Blade's mother was bitten by a vamp while giving birth to him, everyone's favourite bloodsucker-killer has all their strengths, none of their weaknesses, and his own blend of grumpiness, martial arts and bad-ass quips.



D (Vampire Hunter D)
Dhampir

Like Blade, D is half-human, half-vampire, but his vampirism was the result of being the subject of experiments as a child. He's also got a wisecracking symbiotic being in his left hand, who is a lot chattier than old D.



ALICE (Resident Evil)
T-virus infected human

We're not sure about Alice's exact genetic make-up at this point. She's been infected by the mutant T-virus, given the antidote and reinfected, but she's no zombie; she's the ultimate killer.



BUFFY SUMMERS (Buffy The Vampire Slayer)
Slayer

Buffy may look like a normal teen, but she's the chosen one born into every generation: the Slayer. She has ancient strengths, dies a lot, and is here to save the world from evil.



By this point Beckinsale is a dab hand with guns.

guns this time around, which sucks because I'm good at shooting machine guns," Beckinsale laughs.

"Now there are axes and sword fights. I'm a complete natural with guns; so much so, I didn't even need to rehearse. But then every time they give me a new weapon I immediately go, 'Oh no,' and they have to ease me into it. It was okay, though, because it kept me on my toes."

DEEP IN ONE OF THE BIGGEST SOUNDSTAGES AT BARRANDOV STUDIOS, SELENE IS KEEPING A CLUTCH OF YOUNG VAMPIRES

on their toes. She and a character called Varga (Bradley James) are barking orders to a squad of new recruits.

Varga is responsible for training young warriors to fight the Lycans, the vampires' werewolf enemies with who they have waged their age-old war, and Selene is using her experience to offer advice. She speaks with authority. The recruits listen closely.

"Calculate where he will be when the bullet hits," Selene tells her young charges. "Lycans are more vulnerable in wolf form. Their thinking is more primitive, driven by bloodlust."

As she speaks, she moves to a control panel at one end of the room. "Increasing Lycan speed by 20 per cent," she says as she pushes buttons on a simulator that



"NOW, THERE ARE AXES AND SWORD FIGHTS. I'M A COMPLETE NATURAL WITH GUNS – SO MUCH SO THAT I DON'T EVEN NEED TO REHEARSE"
KATE BECKINSALE

will unleash computer-generated Lycans at the vampire warrior trainees. These recruits will have to prove their mettle.

"You have just witnessed the dojo," explains James when the scene is done. "Varga is the head of training. This is his domain, the dojo, and Selene is being introduced to it for the first time."

"She is like a really impressive consultant, and there is a level of excitement about that for Varga," adds James, who is perhaps best known for portraying King Arthur in *Merlin*. "To have her presence, this legend, about the place is awesome for him."

Varga is one of several new characters that populate *Blood Wars*. His coven also includes Semira and Alexia, who are

UNDERWORLD: BLOOD WARS

Bonded By Blood



brought to the screen by Lara Pulver and Daisy Head respectively.

"Alexia is a vampire, a Death Dealer," says Head when she arrives on set. "She is young blood, and she represents the new wave and, by dint of her skill and her knowledge, she is pretty high up in the ranks."

"She leads others, and she is very good at what she does. She meets Selene, and has heard all about her," continues Head, who has a connection to vampires via her father, Anthony Head, who played Giles on *Buffy The Vampire Slayer*. "Selene is the greatest Death Dealer of all time, so Alexia holds her in high regard."

Introducing the likes of Varga, Semira and Alexia, and finding separate storylines and character arcs, has been a real pleasure for Foerster. "That sounds funny, because if you think of *Underworld* and vampires and werewolves, you don't immediately think of character arcs," says the German filmmaker, who has also directed several episodes of the TV series *Outlander*.

"But maybe this is the secret of the original two *Underworld* films; that there was deep character in the back story and in the mythology."

The *Underworld* mythology is well established, and many of the *Blood Wars* characters are already well known. Alongside Beckinsale's kick-ass heroine, both Eve and David return from *Awakening*, as does the latter's father, Thomas, played by Charles Dance.

"We have many things in this film that I think the fans will love," Foerster concludes. "I think the fans could be grateful for seeing a new side of Selene, which they haven't seen before, and they could be grateful for us answering questions about the previous films, which fans are asking all the time, like 'What happened to Michael?' I think it will be interesting for them to learn what happened. I think they'll like what we can show them."

Certainly, Beckinsale is happy to be back. "It feels like a huge privilege to portray a female character like Selene that women go to the movies for," the actress says. "Selene is very particular, she has got compressed rage and compressed energy, and there is something dynamic about that. She is great fun to play." ✨

Underworld: Blood Wars will be released in cinemas on 13 January 2017.



MEET SEMIRA

Lara Pulver on the Eastern Coven and playing bad

INTERVIEW POPPY-JAY PALMER

Could you tell us a little bit about your character?

I play Semira, who was Viktor's [Bill Nighy's character from the previous films] regent. She was set to be the leader of the Eastern Coven, and instead he pushed her to one side in order to concentrate on Selene, so her nose is a bit out of joint. She's a little bit wounded, and she's now just on the council of the Eastern Coven. She's desperate for power and some sort of validation. She'll manipulate and be a master politician in her quest to get what she wants.

Is she one of those villains who think they're doing the right thing, or is she flat-out evil?

Oh no, she totally thinks she's doing the right thing, and she doesn't care who she'll step on to get there. But I think there's also an awareness that she's self-destructing in a way.

Do you enjoy playing the villain?

I did on this one! The director, Anna Foerster, she's got a cracking sense of humour and a real dry wit. It's so helpful having her as the leader, because when I watched the film for the first time it was

littered with her humour, and it's really helped my character. As a villainess, she's really entertaining.

You trained hard and did a lot of your own stunts – would you be up for doing it again?

I really enjoyed it! At one point they were saying, 'We're going to make *Underworld* into a TV show! Lara, you should front it!' and I was like, 'Yeah! Come on!' Then you realise how much hard work it is to maintain and produce that. Then I put my comfies on and sat in front of the telly!

What made you want to get on board with the film?

Anna Foerster. Not only was she taking on this big Hollywood franchise, she was so passionate about these female lead characters being three-dimensional, and being just as badass as anyone else in this genre. It was just a lot of fun. It's highly entertaining as a film, but it really doesn't take itself too seriously. It's so nice to be able to work hard, but have a lot of fun in the process.

What was it like joining a franchise that had already been established?



It kind of felt fresh. I'm not sure whether that was because Anna was new as well, or because I was just new to it. It felt really fresh, and it didn't feel like we were telling part five of a story.

Are you Team Lycan or Team Vampire?
Team Vampire! I am the leader!

Lara Pulver as vampire antagonist Semira.



SET VISIT

Doctor Who

“I’VE ALWAYS WANTED
TO DO THE CLARK KENT-
LOIS LANE THING”
STEVEN MOFFAT



THE RETURN OF THE DOCTOR

PETER CAPALDI, STEVEN MOFFAT AND CO TALK FESTIVE HI-JINKS AND EMBRACING THEIR INNER SUPERHERO FOR 2016'S DOCTOR WHO CHRISTMAS SPECIAL: THE RETURN OF DOCTOR MYSTERIO...

WORDS STEVE O'BRIEN

"The most Chrissmassy Christmas episode yet"

IT HAS BEEN A WELL-MOUTHED PHRASE THESE PAST FEW YEARS FROM STEVEN MOFFAT, DOCTOR WHO'S OUTGOING SHOWRUNNER. "IF YOU THOUGHT THAT LAST year's Christmas special was Christmassy then you haven't seen anything yet" has been the message every year since that first festive special in 2005. Except this year, nobody's saying that, and wandering around the set here at *Doctor Who*'s home in Roath Lock, Cardiff, we're yet to see a single strip of tinsel, a solitary bauble or a flicker of snow. This is quite possibly the *least* Christmassy Christmas episode yet.

In fact, the only reference to Christmas in 'The Return Of Doctor Mysterio' is, according to Moffat, in the opening scene, when on a Christmas Eve sometime in the Nineties, the Doctor meets a comics-crazy young kid who he "accidentally confers superpowers on". The action then speed-forwards, Moffat-style, to present-day New York, when the Doctor

hooks up again with Grant, who is now a strapping 30-something nanny by day, and a cape-rocking superhero by night. Yep, *this* Christmas, *Doctor Who* is taking on Marvel and DC. No pressure, then.

"We've been saying it's the kind of film you'd want to watch at Christmas," says executive producer Brian Minchin, "Rather than being full of snow and holly."

"When *Doctor Who* first came back with 'The Christmas Invasion', the idea of Christmas specials for shows was existent, but it wasn't overwhelming," adds Moffat. "Now, every show has a Christmas special. Suddenly, it doesn't really feel that special that you do your normal show, plus tinsel. I suppose we're drifting away from that."

Maybe it was only a matter of time before *Doctor Who* looked to the superhero genre. Go to any comic convention, and *Who* cosplayers walk side by side with Spider-Mans,

Deadpools, Daredevils and Wolverines. The geek world, it seems, is as superhero mad as it is *Who* mad.

Yet it's not so much the recent Marvel and DC spectacles that have inspired this one than 1978's *Superman: The Movie* and that Nineties tea-time favourite *Lois & Clark: The New Adventures Of Superman*. *Batman V Superman: Dawn Of Justice* can piss right off.

"I've always wanted to do the Clark Kent-Lois Lane thing," says Moffat. "I think that's an amazing story. Superman is the best one – he's so good that all the other ones are named after him. They're not called Bat-heroes, are they?"

The 'Superman' here is the Ghost, played by 33-year-old Canadian-born, California-based Justin Chatwin (*American Gothic*).

"Grant has to plate-spin saving people and saving NYC," Chatwin tells us, "and while he's doing that he has a baby monitor clipped to his belt, and so if he



This Christmas sees *Doctor Who* entering superhero territory.

STRANGE CHRISTMAS

5 of the Strangest Festive Television Specials

MOONLIGHTING 'It's A Wonderful Job'

This cult Eighties detective series was never shy of dipping its toes into fantasy waters, such as in this memorable Christmas special, where Maddie (Cybill Shepherd) is visited by a spirit who shows her the lives of her friends if she had never been born.



COMMUNITY 'Abed's Uncontrollable Christmas'

The geek-friendly sitcom produced one of the most searingly original Christmas specials ever with this stop-motion festive episode.



THE X-FILES 'How The Ghosts Stole Christmas'

The best of *The X-Files*' festive episodes, this MR James-inspired tale finds Mulder and Scully trapped in a haunted house on Christmas Eve.



DOCTOR WHO 'The Feast Of Steven'

Doctor Who's only Christmas special of its original run was a comic runaround that finished with the Doctor breaking the fourth wall and wishing "a Happy Christmas to all of you at home." Crikey!



THE TWILIGHT ZONE 'Night Of The Meek'

A down-on-his-luck department store Santa Claus discovers the Christmas spirit when he finds a mysterious bag that gives out presents.



Meet the Ghost – and his civilian alter ego, Grant (Justin Chatwin, right).



Merlin's Tomiwa Edun has joined the cast in an unknown role.

➤ hears the baby crying, no matter who he's saving, he has to rush back."

That baby is the daughter of Lucy Fletcher, the episode's de facto Lois Lane, a sassy newspaper journalist who Grant has been secretly in love with for ten agonising years. "Can you imagine the sexual tension?" Chatwin winces.

"There's a lot of great banter," says Charity Wakefield (*Wolf Hall*), who plays Lucy. "She's quite a fast talker, and her and Grant have lovely scenes together."

Both Chatwin and Wakefield were told to go away and watch three movies for their Yuletide special prep – Sam Raimi's *Spider-Man*, and the first two Christopher Reeve *Superman* flicks. As we're guided around the studios, there's an obvious *Superman: The Movie* vibe to the rooftop garden currently being dressed. A plastic backdrop of New York City's skyline suggests what they'll be filming later takes place at night, just like *Superman: The Movie*'s iconic scene between Supes and Lois.

"To have this fairly naive Clark Kent/Lois Lane kind of relationship is a wonderful sort of relief," says Peter Capaldi. "I love being in scenes with them, because a lot of it is about

their relationship and having to hide his superhero persona, it develops an almost farcical situation, which Steven writes very, very beautifully. It's like a little Swiss watch – it all has to work beautifully, and he does that."

SO WHAT IS THE DOCTOR'S RELATIONSHIP WITH THE GHOST? DOES THE SUPERHERO GET A TRADITIONAL TONGUE-WHIPPING FROM THE FAMOUSLY ACERBIC TWELVE, or are they, well, pally?

"Oh, he's not at all competitive with him," says Capaldi. "The Ghost is very nice, so I think the Doctor's very sympathetic towards him and appreciates the work he's doing in the world."

Although *Superman* takes place in the fictional city of Metropolis, the fact that



Peter Capaldi returns as the Doctor. Make the most of it.



Richard Donner shot his *Superman* in the Big Apple has helped cement NYC as the go-to home for superheroes, so there was never a chance of it being set in any other place other than New York.

Who has filmed in NYC twice before. Second unit plates were used for 2007's 'Daleks In Manhattan', and much of Season Seven's 'The Angels Take Manhattan' was lensed in the real New York ("All the stuff like Amy and Rory on the rooftop," admits Moffat, "that was the car park outside the studios in Cardiff!").

But however generous *Doctor Who*'s budget is, it's a small bite compared to the Herculean moneybanks of the summer blockbusters, so a week's location filming in Times Square was, sadly, out of the question.

"Thankfully, we discovered that they'd built two blocks of New York as a standing film set in a film studio in Bulgaria," says Minchin. "Obviously, that's much easier to control. We could never close down a block of New York and drive 20 yellow cabs around it and do what we want to do."

There's no spoofery in the air here – this Christmas special is being approached as a proper full-blooded superhero extravaganza, and one that

Marvel or DC would be proud to call their own. They're about to lens the episode's flying sequences this week (overseen by producer Peter Bennett, who was, coincidentally, assistant director on *Superman: The Movie*'s flying scenes), and we've been given a sneak peek at the Ghost's costume, a Dark Knight-inspired ensemble with an art deco 'G' at its centre.

"We had people who draw comics come in to help us with the design of the costume," says Minchin. "It had to be right, and it had to look like not the type of thing you could make at home."

"There wasn't a lot of description about the costume in the script," adds Moffat. "If you were inventing a new superhero for the cinema, you'd be wanting something new and different, but we want the kind of classic one. Very specifically within the story, this is a little boy who read a lot of comic books who grows up and happens to have superpowers. He creates a superhero in the image of the superheroes with whom he grew up."

This Christmas special is being filmed as part of the Series Ten block. At the time of our visit, four episodes have already been shot, and new companion Pearl Mackie (who makes her debut in the first episode of the new series) is taking a

ON THE 12TH DAY OF CHRISTMAS MY DOCTOR GAVE TO ME...



Shiny Ray-Bans



Mops and Fezzes



3D Glasses



Leather Jackets



TV Movies



Ugly Sweaters



Colourful Umbrellas



Cel'ry Sticks!



Bags of Sweets



Swish Capes



Pudding Cuts



a loud rant from William Hartnell!



SET VISIT

Doctor Who

“THE GHOST IS VERY NICE... THE DOCTOR’S VERY SYMPATHETIC TOWARDS HIM AND APPRECIATES THE WORK HE’S DOING IN THE WORLD”

PETER CAPALDI

rest while Capaldi does his festive thing. But while we’ll have to wait a little while longer to meet the Doctor’s new travelling mate Bill, ‘The Return Of Doctor Mysterio’ does introduce – or reintroduce – another of Series Ten’s regulars, Matt Lucas’s Nardole, whom we last saw as a disembodied head in the last Christmas special, ‘The Husbands Of River Song’.

“We’d been vaguely thinking that the Doctor would like some sort of butler, and it would be funny if his butler wasn’t really intent on being his butler,” says Moffat. “If he handed him his coat, his butler just threw his coat away, that would be quite funny. Matt Lucas got in touch and said if we ever wanted him back he’d love to, so with the intent of writing him into a couple of episodes, I phoned him up in LA, and he made it clear he’d like to be in loads of it. He was putting all sorts of other things on hold so he could beat a path from LA to Cardiff!”

“Matt’s great, he’s very funny,” says Capaldi. “When I see them on screen, Matt – I’m not sure

whether he’d like me saying this – looks like an alien. In a lot of his comic work, he always has a very distinctive looks about him, but in *Doctor Who* he looks like a creature from another planet with his pale sweet face and his clear eyes. I was amazed looking at us together, we sort of look like a pair of strange alien creatures!”

Given that ‘The Return Of Doctor Mysterio’ has been built around what, in Minchin’s words is “the kind of film you’d want to watch at Christmas”, does that mean next year’s special might again look to the Christmas schedules for inspiration? After *Doctor Who*-does-superheroes, dare we dream of... *Doctor Who*-does-Bond? “I’m running out of Christmasses to do!” laughs Moffat. “That’s an odder one, though, because there are lots of superheroes, and there’s only one James Bond.

“I’d like *Doctor Who* to meet the real James Bond, that’d be awesome. But they wouldn’t get on at all,” he smiles. “He’d shag his assistant!”

Doctor Who, ‘The Return Of Doctor Mysterio’ will air on BBC One on Christmas Day.

ALL WE WANT FOR CHRISTMAS
The Doctor likes to get his shopping done early...

Rose
Gymnastics starter course
gift certificate
A new girlfriend for Mickey
David Tennant calendar

Martha
Walking boots
Travel first aid kit
David Tennant colouring book

Donna
A Filofax
Charades
Most Important Woman In The
Whole Universe mug

Amy
Leg warmers
The Letters Of Vincent Van Gogh
A typewriter

Rory
Lifetime pass to the Colosseum
Sudoku
A watch

Clara
Chalk
Fancy kitchen utensils – a whisk?
A flower press kit



Also starring is Aleksandar Jovanovic as the nefarious-looking Dr Sim.



Chatwin had never seen *Doctor Who* before he was cast in ‘The Return Of Doctor Mysterio’.

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FANTASTIC BEASTS AND WHERE TO FIND THEM

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"YOU WOULD NEED TO
USE A REVELIO CHARM
TO FIND A WEAK LINK"



TV-14 EDDIE REDMAYNE PREVIOUSLY AUDITIONED FOR THE ROLE OF TOM RIDDLE IN HARRY POTTER AND THE CHAMBER OF SECRETS.

70 CINEMA

Theatrical releases

70 Fantastic Beasts
And Where To
Find Them
71 Moana

71 Personal Shopper

72 HOME/FILM

Films on DVD,
Blu-ray and more

72 Suicide Squad:
Extended Cut

72 Pete's Dragon

72 The Purge:
Election Year

74 Transformers: The
Movie

74 The Herschell
Gordon Lewis Feast

74 Lights Out

76 HOME/TV

TV shows on DVD,
Blu-ray and more

76 Doctor Who: Power
Of The Daleks

76 Outcast:
Season One

77 Fear The
Walking Dead:
Season Two

77 UFO

78 Class

78 Star Trek: The
Original Series – The
Roddenberry Vault

FILM INFO

Released

Out now

Certificate

12A

Director

David Yates

Screenwriter

J.K. Rowling

Cast

Eddie Redmayne, Katherine Waterston, Dan Fogler, Alison Sudol, Colin Farrell, Ron Perlman, Ezra Miller, Carmen Ejogo, Samantha Morton

Distributor

Warner Bros Pictures

Running Time

133 mins



A wizard in demi-guise

FANTASTIC BEASTS AND WHERE TO FIND THEM

JUST IN CASE...

The best bags in genre cinema

Mary Poppins' carpetbag

Though not many people can pull off a carpetbag, Poppins proves that hers is practically perfect in every way.

Hermione's beaded bag

Harry Potter And The Deathly Hallows: Part One
Hermione no doubt stole this idea from the many times she definitely watched *Mary Poppins* as a child, but her complex undetectable extension charm is faultless.

Sarah Harding's lucky pack

The Lost World: Jurassic Park
Nothing can separate a palaeontologist from her lucky pack. Not even a dinosaur. That thing saved her life.

Batman's emotional baggage

Every Batman film
Darkness and dead parents – Bruce Wayne has a lot to be grumpy about, and he carries it around in a figurative bag everywhere he goes.

Bilbo BAGgins

The Hobbit
We've run out of bags. This boxout was a terrible idea. We might as well bring this whole thing to a close.

When you're the type of person that spent a large portion of their childhood, teenage years, adulthood and more obsessing over Harry, Ron and Hermione, being introduced to new characters who live somewhere other than Hogwarts can be a bit jarring. The fact that Warner Bros is planning *Fantastic Beasts And Where To Find Them*, effectively building yet another separate franchise, feels a bit like emotional blackmail. But as long as the wizarding world remains the setting, we know we're always going to come back.

When magizoologist Newt Scamander (Eddie Redmayne) arrives in New York in 1926 with a suitcase full of magical creatures, it's not long before a few of them escape, causing Newt to start a citywide search for the beasts before the muggles catch wind of what's happening, risking the secrecy of the entire magical world. Things are made a lot harder when the Magical Congress of the United States of America – or MACUSA for short – decides to get involved.

Happily, the greatest thing about *Fantastic Beasts* is, of course, the beasts. The *Harry*

Potter series gave us a look at some of what the wizarding world's wildlife has to offer, but the contents of Newt's suitcase are unlike anything we've seen before. Each new creature is just as brilliant as the last, with a few inspiring, wonderful and endlessly entertaining set pieces as Newt attempts to coerce them back into the bag.

In addition to the creatures, the magic of the wizarding world continues to enchant and transfix. The 15 years that have passed since *The Philosopher's Stone* have really left time for visual effects technology to advance. One downside to that, however, is that goblins and such are no longer played by people, and the sort of mechanical engineering that went into Buckbeak the Hippogriff appears basically obsolete. Now, almost everything is animated, which is a shame, because it would have been amazing to see the actual Ron Perlman play a goblin gangster rather than a CG figure that sort of looks like him.

The standout character is Jacob Kowalski, which is surprising considering he's a muggle – sorry, no-maj – but unsurprising as he's played by the extremely likeable Dan Fogler. He doesn't need a funny script to be hilarious; just an odd sound or a bemused facial expression will do. Katherine Waterston as Tina Goldstein, Newt's new New Yorker associate and ex-MACUSA auror, is also a fun addition, providing the audience with a very human look into the differences between the American wizarding world and the British one.



Newcomer Alison Sudol is wonderfully magical as Tina's sister Queenie, and rather Luna Lovegood-like in disposition. She's not quite as weird as Luna, but she's got the added bonus of being a legilimens, meaning she can read people's minds and cut out the middleman when flirting with Jacob. The rest of the cast is good – you would need to use a revelio charm to find a weak link.

Fantastic Beasts is entertaining and often mesmerising, but ultimately it's not *Harry Potter*. It links itself back to Harry's world through name-dropping, magical lore and the odd talisman, but something is missing. It might be the heart or it might be Harry, but more likely it's that we haven't spent years loving Newt, Tina, Jacob and Queenie before we finally saw them on screen.

Poppy-Jay Palmer

★★★★★

OR STAY IN AND WATCH...



Harry Potter And The Prisoner Of Azkaban
See more creatures in Hagrid's lessons as a professor.

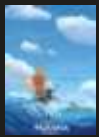




MOANA

A lot to lava

Details PG // 103 mins // Out now **Directors** Ron Clements, John Musker
Screenwriter Jared Bush **Cast** Auli'i Cravalho, Dwayne Johnson, Rachel House, Tamuera Morrison, Jemaine Clement **Distributor** Walt Disney Studios



Not based on any one tale in particular, which is unusual for a Disney princess, *Moana's* story is a simple one:

the daughter of a Polynesian chief (Auli'i Cravalho) sets off on a quest to find the demigod Maui (Dwayne Johnson) so he can help reunite Te Fiti with her heart, saving her island and probably the entire world.

It's a basic point-A-to-B adventure, but with life, energy and emotion. It's perfectly cast, and the animation – particularly the parts with the ocean in them, which is almost all of it – is jaw dropping.

But what brings it all together is the cast of characters. Moana doesn't fit into the 'there are no girls like me' trope, and she's a better character for it. She could be anyone. She's brave, kind, adventurous and resourceful, and there are millions of girls just like her. She's also unsure of her path and sometimes needs a push, but there are millions of girls like that too.



Though he fits the specifications for a comedy sidekick, Maui doesn't feel like one. Instead, he's half of the duo that makes up Moana and Maui, wayfinder extraordinaires and heroes of all. However, as this is a Disney film, there's still a comedy sidekick in the form of an idiot chicken, somehow voiced by Alan Tudyk. The chicken gags are mostly physical and childish, but they're still funny.

Original songs by Lin-Manuel Miranda, Opetaia Foa'i and Mark Mancina add to the magic, with special mention going to 'Shiny', sang by a glittery crab voiced by Clement. The entire sequence is bizarre, with a kind of David Bowie/*Flight Of The Conchords* mash-up soundtrack, but the best version of that combination you can imagine.

Like so many 21st century Disney films to get cast aside, *Moana* is an aquatic slap in the face to the people that stop listening when you try to talk to them about anything made after *The Lion King*. Those people can't be called Disney fans; they're just snobs who are missing out on some of the best Disney to date.

Poppy-Jay Palmer

★★★★★

OR STAY IN AND WATCH...



Lilo & Stitch
 This overlooked classic takes you on a Hawaiian roller coaster ride with added aliens and emotions.



PERSONAL SHOPPER

Stalk of the devil

Details 15 // 110 mins // 17 March **Director** Olivier Assayas **Screenwriter** Olivier Assayas **Cast** Kristen Stewart, Lars Eidinger, Sigrid Bouaziz, Anders Danielsen Lie, Ty Olwin, Hammou Graia, Nora von Waldstätten **Distributor** Les Films du Losange



The old Marmite

analogy is such a terrible cliché, but that's basically what we're looking at with *Personal Shopper*.

As a film that was both booed at its Cannes screening and given an almost five-minute standing ovation after its premiere, viewers have been reacting very strongly to it at both ends of the scale.

Kristen Stewart stars as Maureen, an American living in Paris working as a hard-done-by personal shopper for a demanding designer/supermodel (Nora von Waldstätten) who's never around. Maureen also happens to be a medium, and does a bit of ghost whispering on the side.

She spends a fair few of her nights in creepy houses for superstitious homeowners to determine whether or not they are haunted, while also keeping a third eye out for the spirit of her twin brother, looking for signs of communication from him so she can move on after his death. Even with the spirits, Maureen's life is a pretty quiet one – until she begins receiving unwanted attention in the form of untraceable text messages, upon which things get very sinister, very quickly.

Personal Shopper is a bit of a slow burner. After a strong start featuring a quasi-séance in a haunted house, it quickly fizzles out into pretty shots with very little plot or dialogue. Nothing of note really happens until Maureen starts receiving the anonymous texts



out of the blue while waiting to get on the Eurostar.

The pacing is often awkward and disjointed, but when it wants to be scary it really goes for it. The overall result is a viewing experience that can go from being boring to heart palpitation-inducing sinister and back again in less than three minutes.

Stewart is easily the best thing about *Personal Shopper*, playing a woman who is both terrified and weirdly thrilled at the realisation that she has somehow acquired a stalker. Through the film's high and low points, she continues to give a fascinating, unbreakable performance, and becomes the reason to push through and continue watching when the plot starts to taper off.

Poppy-Jay Palmer

★★★★★

OR STAY IN AND WATCH...



A Girl Walks Home Alone At Night
 A young vampire spends her nights stalking men who disrespect women.

SUICIDE SQUAD: EXTENDED CUT Task Force Zzz

Details 15 // 123 mins // 2016 // **Released** Out now **Director** David Ayer
Screenwriter Osgood Perkins **Cast** Will Smith, Margot Robbie, Jared Leto, Viola Davis,
Jai Courtney **Distributor** Warner Home Video



The best thing about *Suicide Squad* is easily Viola Davis. She starts the story off as Amanda Waller, a government official who comes up with

the genius plan of releasing the world's most dangerous criminals and getting them together to form a super group, Task Force X, to try and stop an even bigger threat: the ancient and all-powerful Enchantress (Cara Delevingne), from messing everything up even further.

It takes a very special sort of film to be both extremely in-your-face and devastatingly dull at the same time. *Suicide Squad* achieves that mix frequently and heroically. It's both a high-octane, whirlwind adventure and a nonsensical yawn fest of epic proportions.

That's probably why the trailer worked so well. Trailers are usually

made up of 'best bits' with no context, and *Suicide Squad* is wall-to-wall 'best bits' with very little plot. The film itself is practically a montage. Sometimes it works, and sometimes it doesn't.

The final cut would have been improved if it had some sort of story. Instead, we endure vague, though occasionally entertaining, flashbacks showing us why Deadshot (Will Smith), Harley Quinn (Margot Robbie), Captain Boomerang (Jai Courtney), El Diablo (Jay Hernandez), Killer Croc (Adewale Akinnuoye-Agbaje) and the Joker (Jared Leto) are the way they are, before a mediocre climax before the credits roll.

Much like its DCEU predecessors, *Suicide Squad* contains little to make it stand out. It's just another superhero film, even though the superheroes are technically villains, with so-so characters and a 'whatever' script.



Even Leto fails to impress, excite or have any kind of impact at all as the Joker, which is bitterly disappointing after all the media spin about the actor going 'full method'. All that reported obnoxiousness was for nothing.

Poppy-Jay Palmer

★★★★★

IF YOU LIKE THIS TRY...



Batman Beyond: Return Of The Joker
The Caped Crusader takes on the Clown Prince of Crime in this animated hit.

PETE'S DRAGON Happiest film in these hills

Details PG // 103 mins // 2016 // **Released** Out now **Director** David Lowery **Cast** Bryce Dallas Howard, Oakes Fegley, Robert Redford, Karl Urban, Oona Laurence, Wes Bentley **Distributor** Walt Disney Studios Home Entertainment



There are two types of people: those who either haven't heard of the 1977 *Pete's Dragon*, or have seen it once but can remember nothing about it; and there are those who almost wore out their copy of the VHS and know most of the words to the bulk of the songs. Disney's remake is definitely for the latter crowd.

It's not much of an updated version – writer and director David Lowery hasn't been clear on exactly when it's supposed to be set – and it's not a musical, having replaced the old soundtrack with one simple but haunting ballad. Regardless, it still captures the spirit of the original, and then some. It somehow manages to be thoroughly uplifting, intensely devastating and completely family friendly all at once.



Must see now!

There's nothing not to love about this retelling. The characters are well-rounded, the casting is spot-on, and the relationship between the orphan Pete (Oakes Fegley) and Elliot the dragon will surely warm the cockles of the most jaded, anti-Disney hearts.

Poppy-Jay Palmer

★★★★★

THE PURGE: ELECTION YEAR Fight for your right

Details 15 // 109 mins // 2016 // **Released** 26 December **Director** James DeMonaco **Cast** Frank Grillo, Elizabeth Mitchell **Distributor** Universal Pictures



Blumhouse movies have always got by thanks to their perfunctory yet effective premises, although sometimes you get the feeling that they persevere to the point where its initial impact is reduced. *The Purge: Election Year* is symptomatic of this.

Despite arriving at probably the most relevant time it could have – what with a certain individual now the President of the world's most powerful nation – it's a formula that seems a bit stale by now. *Anarchy* made a good fist at depicting the wider impact of the Purge, and while *Election Year* begins with an novel twist – galvanised by the always great Frank Grillo – it quickly fades into a surprisingly samey orgy of killing.

At 109 minutes long, you get the feeling that a good 30 of these could have been trimmed from the run time without losing much. True, political satire may have had its job made a lot harder, but that doesn't excuse this from being tired, uncreative and more than a little bit silly.

Steve Wright

★★★★★



"DOES FOR SERIAL KILLERS WHAT *DONNIE DARKO*
DID FOR TIME TRAVEL... ABSOLUTELY UNMISSABLE"



HORROR CHANNEL



SCI-FI NOW



THE NATIONAL STUDENT



THE HOLLYWOOD NEWS



I Am Not A Serial Killer

MAX RECORDS LAURA FRASER
AND CHRISTOPHER LLOYD

BASED ON THE NOVEL BY DAN WELLS

EVERY TOWN HAS ITS MONSTERS

BEUTIS' ANIMAN NA HEREADN'THE BRUSHFIRM BOLLOU PRESENTS AN ORIGINAL FILM BY DUCKYRE FILMS THE PIZZAFACILITY LIMITED FANTASTIC FILMS
AND DUCKYRE FILMS A PIZZAFACILITY FILM AND PRODUCTION THE PIZZAFACILITY FILM COMPANY PRESENTS A FILM BY DUCKYRE FILMS "I AM NOT A SERIAL KILLER"
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@IANASKfilm #IANASK #IAmNotASerialKiller BullDogFilmDistribution

SHOCK AND GORE: THE FILMS OF HERSCHELL GORDON LEWIS

Banking on blood

Details 18 // 1,175 mins // 1963-72 // **Released** Out now **Director** Herschell Gordon Lewis **Cast** Various **Distributor** Arrow Video



Herschell Gordon Lewis, the Godfather of Gore, passed away this year, and fans of his work will want to snap up this very handsome collection of his work from Arrow Video.

There are some pristine restorations, commentaries, featurettes, interviews with his contemporaries and acolytes and a fantastic documentary directed by splatter-horror favourite Frank Henenlotter that spans Lewis' origins in softcore smut to his venerated position as the originator of the slasher movie and a trailblazer for independent filmmakers.

The box set packs in 14 movies, from *Blood Feast* to *The Gore Gore Girls*. You'll find his best-known movies like *2000 Maniacs* and *The Wizard Of Gore*, and

curios like *Something Weird*, non-genre exploitation like *Scum Of The Earth*, and the ones that are difficult to discuss without grimacing, like *The Gruesome Twosome*. With the exception of his early nudie pictures and the two films he made in the Noughties, it's basically all here.

As is pointed out in Henenlotter's *The Godfather Of Gore*, talking about artistic merit in Lewis movies is missing the point. Lewis made films to make money, with gruesome shocks and titillation by using every game cast member and piece of sheep's carcass at his disposal. This is not to dismiss his sly wit, and later films like *The Wizard Of Gore* boast some disorientating dream-like sequences, but it's all in service of the schlock. There are exceptions, but don't expect good acting, great writing or exceptional filmmaking.



If you're a fan of HGL, you need this box set. The brick-red blood, grinding guts and popped eyeballs have never looked better. If you're new to his work then we'd suggest trying one first before shelling out on such a lavish collection.

Jonathan Hatfull

★★★★★

IF YOU LIKE THIS TRY...



Pink Flamingos
John Waters' bad-taste classic is still absolutely wonderful, god damn it.

LIGHTS OUT

Hearts of darkness

Details 15 // 81 mins // 2016 // **Released** Out now **Director** David F Sandberg **Cast** Teresa Palmer, Gabriel Bateman, Billy Burke, Maria Bello **Distributor** Warner Home Video



Everyone can empathise with fear of the dark, which makes *Lights Out*'s simple premise all

the more effective: imagining an instance in which our misgivings prove to be entirely justified.

With the plot seeing the haunted Rebecca (Teresa Palmer) and her brother Martin (Gabriel Bateman) being terrorised by a malevolent, darkness-dwelling spirit, it's essentially an exercise in having your nerves shredded into fine pieces. Every opportunity for a jump scare is seized with relish, and every cast member is on top form. Upon watching, the reason for the presence of the strong cast becomes abundantly clear.

Even so, it's hard to shake the feeling that this is a little bit of a missed opportunity. Once



the demystification of the plot commences, it gradually loses its impact, and while the fittingly abrupt ending ensures that this steers clear of genre clichés, it won't live long in the memory.

While *Lights Out* does its job, essentially this is functional, no-frills horror. And we want more frills.

Steve Wright

★★★★★

THE TRANSFORMERS: THE MOVIE

30TH ANNIVERSARY EDITION Roll out

Details PG // 84 mins // 1986 // **Released** Out now **Director** Nelson Shin **Cast** Orson Welles, Leonard Nimoy, Peter Cullen, Judd Nelson **Distributor** Manga Entertainment



Something that comes up time and again in the excellent documentary on Manga Entertainment's

30th anniversary reissue of *The Transformers: The Movie* is that all of this was in service to a toytline.

But what comes across just as clearly is the amount of hard work and fun that went into creating this ambitious, sprawling feature length movie, and the impact that it's had on generations of kids who watched it, including one in Michigan who locked himself in the bathroom after the death of a key character.

Plotwise, it's a mess. As the Decepticons and Autobots race for the powerful Matrix and the Orson Welles-voiced Unicron rumbles away, the real charm

comes from the animation, the incredible Eighties soundtrack, and the back-and-forth between the characters. Leonard Nimoy's villainous Galvatron is a treat, but it's the voice-over veterans of the show who make it what it is. This is a great restoration with fantastic special features.

Jonathan Hatfull

★★★★★



AKIRA: COLLECTOR'S EDITION

Days of future past

Details 15 // 124 mins // 1988 // **Released** Out now
Director Katsuhiro Otomo **Cast** Nozomu Sasaki, Mami Koyama, Mitsuo Iwata
Distributor Manga Entertainment



Containing both the original 1988 English dub and the 2001 Pioneer/Animaze English translation –

not to mention numerous special features and physical freebies like a collector's box, art card and the movie poster – fans of the greatest anime movie of all time will find a lot to love in this collector's edition.

It's tricky to add more plaudits to what is already recognised as a seminal piece of filmmaking, but we'll do so nonetheless. Putting aside the frenetic pace of the story and innumerable layers that exist within, you can view its influences in innumerable sci-fi, fantasy and horror flicks. From the lawless environs of Neo-Tokyo to



the body-horrific transformation that Tetsuo undergoes, pieces of *Akira* are splattered all over 21st-century cinema.

With the live-action *Ghost In The Shell* remake nearly upon us, we can only assume that *Akira*'s turn will shortly follow. We'll wait with bated breath, as it has a lot to live up to.

Steve Wright

★★★★★

Sci-Fi Now
Must see now!

KUBO AND THE TWO STRINGS

In a cage of motion

Details PG // 102 mins // 2016 // **Released** 16 January **Director** Travis Knight **Cast** Art Parkinson, Charlize Theron, Matthew McConaughey, Ralph Fiennes, George Takei **Distributor** Universal Pictures



Animation studio Laika has been crafting satisfying stop-motion stories for a while now, but with *Kubo And The Two Strings* it may well have created its masterpiece.

Even if we ignore the mesmerisingly brilliant visuals for a moment, there are so many things



Sci-Fi Now
Must see now!

that etch this into the memory. Whether it's the Greek tragedy-inspired central storyline that sees young Kubo (Art Parkinson) embark on a magical quest, the unforgettable characters or the brave and unconventional yet ultimately satisfying ending, there are few areas in which it doesn't achieve excellence. Having stars like Charlize Theron and Matthew McConaughey on board helps, but they disappear into their roles almost completely.

For our money one of the best films of the year, you owe it to yourself to watch it if you haven't done so already. By turns hopeful, haunting, poignant and poetic, this is something you simply have to experience for yourself.

Steve Wright

★★★★★

THE CHILDHOOD OF A LEADER

Little monster

Details 12 // 116 mins // 2015 // **Released** 30 January **Director** Brady Corbet
Cast Berenice Bejo, Liam Cunningham, Robert Pattinson, Tom Sweet, Stacy Martin
Distributor SODA Pictures



Brady Corbet has already established himself as an acting talent to watch, making strong and unusual choices like *Simon Killer* and *Funny Games* and popping up in European movies like *Force Majeure* and *Eden*. His first film behind the camera shows that he's a force to be reckoned with there as well; an icy and gripping downward spiral towards a point of no return.

It's 1919, and *The Father* (Liam Cunningham) has relocated to the countryside outside of Paris with his French wife (Bérénice Bejo) and young son (Tom Sweet) Prescott to play a part in the post-War negotiations. Shortly after the boy is caught throwing rocks at churchgoers, his relationship with his mother becomes strained. Each punishment provokes worse behaviour, and there seems to be no easy solution.

Corbet's use of a damaged family to examine the creation of the post-war powder keg in Europe and the rise of fascism works beautifully, and it allows him to create something much more interesting than a straight historical drama. *The Childhood Of A Leader* tiptoes around the edges of genre; a claustrophobic drama in which each escalation is carefully structured and beautifully executed. There's a fantastic sense of tension as the lack of communication and strident threats of reprisal for Prescott's behaviour only create greater resentment.

Corbet's clearly picked up some tricks from the filmmakers he's worked with, but given that he's acted for Michael Haneke, Lars Von Trier and Antonio Campos, that's not bad thing. The former is welcome influence on the tone. A further key element to the film's atmosphere is Scott Walker's score.

Sci-Fi Now
Must see now!



The performances are excellent. Bejo is particularly good as the embittered mother, and Sweet is great as Prescott, while Cunningham, Robert Pattinson and Stacy Martin put in strong work.

This is an intelligent and razor sharp piece of work that will grip you until its nerve-jangling cautionary climax.

Jonathan Hatfull

★★★★★

IF YOU LIKE THIS TRY...



Funny Games

Corbet clearly learned a thing or two while working with Michael Haneke on the US remake of this brutal meta dark comedy.





DOCTOR WHO: THE POWER OF THE DALEKS

The second Doctor gets regenerated

Details TBC // 180 mins // DVD • BBC // Out now **Director** Charles Norton
Cast Patrick Troughton, Anneke Wills, Michael Craze **Distributor** BBC Worldwide



Astonishingly, 97 Doctor

Who episodes are missing. While some have been rediscovered, others remain lost forever, with only audio recordings and, in some cases, short clips surviving.

But the BBC has decided to bring one of those lost serials back to life in animated form, and it's no surprise that they chose to revive Patrick Troughton's first adventure as the Doctor on the 50th anniversary of his debut.

In 'The Power Of The Daleks', the Doctor and his companions Polly and Ben arrive on a human colony, where a scientist is experimenting on a mysterious spaceship containing some not-quite-dead Daleks. Extermination inevitably ensues.

The remastered audio – dialogue, sound effects and music – are from the original episodes, but the animation laid over the top of it is new, and done under

serious budgetary constraints. The animation is clunky, with characters walking with all the finesse of those in *South Park*, but it's stylistically lovely.

The designs are excellent, and the use of crisp black and white works well in this noirish tale. The Daleks look wonderful – their clean lines and the eerie audio track make them scarier here than they have been in live action for years. There are some nice animation moments – cobwebs blowing on the deactivated Daleks, an un-shelled Dalek skittering under a door – but on the whole the animation is perfunctory, merely a means of delivering the real point of these episodes.

And that, of course, is Patrick Troughton's debut. Based on his vocals alone, it's an incredible performance. He's joyous, stoic, sinister and always every inch the Doctor. He sets the tone for all subsequent post-regeneration performances.

Even in this new form, you still feel like you're watching a piece of television history.

Abigail Chandler

★★★★★

IF YOU LIKE THIS TRY...



Doctor Who: The Infinite Quest
If you like animated *Who* then watch this Tenth Doctor adventure with Martha.



Season One

OUTCAST

Know your demon

Details 18 // 600 mins // DVD • Out now **Creator** Robert Kirkman
Cast Patrick Fugit, Philip Glenister, Wrenn Schmidt, David Denman, Reg E Cathey
Distributor 20th Century Fox Home Entertainment



The initial comparisons

that people made with *The Walking Dead* were inevitable, but by the end of the first season, *Outcast* successfully stepped out from its shadow, carving out a corner for itself as one of the most chilling, gripping and gruesome pieces of TV we've seen this year.

Right from opening episode 'A Darkness Surrounds Him', Kyle (Patrick Fugit) is established as a troubled individual. Estranged from his wife, not allowed to see his daughter and viewed with suspicion and hostility by everyone else, he isolates himself from the world – a man clearly terrified of what he's capable of. But when Reverend Anderson (Philip Glenister) comes to him with demon-related troubles, he's forced to end his seclusion – which has major ramifications for everyone around him.

While Robert Kirkman's other show has increasingly embraced its comic-book origins over time, *Outcast* makes no such concessions. Relentlessly bleak and invested in the seriousness of the subject matter, it is at times a tough watch, but there's plenty to be invested in. It's impossible not to empathise with Kyle's existence, as it is with those who are drawn into his orbit, namely sister Megan (Wrenn Schmidt) and her husband Mark (David Denman).

All of this is interjected with some truly horrible death scenes – the moment one major character gets it in penultimate episode 'Close To Home' is particularly protracted – and very upsetting moments. This aside, it can sometimes feel like there are a few too many characters. Reg E Cathey's Byron is good value, but superfluous, and Brent Spiner is wasted in a role that's an evil cackle short of pantomime villain status.

This aside, it has to rank as a solid first season for *Outcast*, and we look forward to what lies ahead for the show come the following year.

Steve Wright

★★★★★

IF YOU LIKE THIS TRY...



The Exorcist
The continuation of the classic movie has had a warm critical reception so far. Long may it continue.



Must see now!



Season Two

FEAR THE WALKING DEAD

The Wading Dead

Details 15 // 645 mins // DVD • Out now **Creators** Robert Kirkman, Dave Erickson **Cast** Kim Dickens, Cliff Curtis, Frank Dillane, Alycia Debnam-Carey, Elizabeth Rodriguez, Mercedes Mason, Lorenzo James Henrie, Rubén Blades, Colman Domingo, Michelle Ang **Distributor** Anchor Bay Entertainment



Following on from a short six-episode debut run, Season Two of *Fear The Walking Dead* continues to develop

its cast of characters, and largely succeeds in distinguishing itself from its more famous parent show, while still addressing familiar themes and maintaining the expected level of zombie-related gore.

The season opens with the main characters (led by Kim Dickens' Madison) escaping an onset of zombies by taking refuge aboard a boat owned by mysterious stranger Strand (Colman Domingo). After a number of aquatic zombie encounters, the crew eventually reach their destination and hole up in a Mexican compound owned by Strand's lover (a briefly guest-starring Dougray Scott).

However, it never pays to stay still for too long in a zombie apocalypse, and after everything goes south at the compound, the second half of the season finds the characters split into three groups: Madison, daughter Alicia (Alycia Debnam-Carey) and Strand discover a hotel full of zombies; recovering junkie son Nick (Frank Dillane) takes up with a religious cult who believe their leader is immune to zombie bites; and husband Travis (Cliff

Curtis) heads off in pursuit of his son Chris (Lorenzo James Henrie) after he displays worrying sociopathic tendencies.

As with its parent show, *Fear The Walking Dead* gets a lot of emotional mileage out of its makeshift family dynamic, while continuing to explore the idea that humans are often much more dangerous than zombies. The show even adds an intriguing layer of zombie sympathy, as Nick frequently coats himself in zombie guts in order to walk alongside the dead.

The striking camerawork and offbeat location choices (boat, desert, hotel, etc) go a long way towards setting the show apart visually, though fans can rest easy that the gory moments are still as nasty and inventive as ever (boat propellers are put to unconventional use, for example). Admittedly, the writing wobbles a little when it comes to the clarity of the show's allegories (particularly in regards to immigration), but there's more than enough here to justify excitement at the prospect of a third season.

Matthew Turner

★★★★★

IF YOU LIKE THIS TRY...



In The Flesh
Coming-out-allegory meets horror in this affecting British zombie drama.



SCIFI NOW
Must see now!

UFO

SHADO play

Details 12 // 1,300 mins // Out now **Creators** Gerry Anderson, Sylvia Anderson, Reg Hill **Cast** Ed Bishop, Michael Billington, Wanda Ventham **Distributor** Network



Freed from the

restrictions of kids' puppetry, Gerry Anderson dove into surprisingly dark waters with *UFO*, his first (and best) flesh-and-blood production.

Although shot through with child-friendly, traditionally Andersonic elements – a top-secret international agency (SHADO: Supreme Headquarters, Alien Defence Organisation), represented by model vehicles, engages in a *Captain Scarlet*-style war of attrition with a formless enemy – *UFO* introduces bloody violence, drug use, sexual frankness (even attempted rape in final episode 'The Long Sleep') and a pervasive atmosphere of tension and gloom.

In addition, there's little chance to become familiar with a consistent team of regulars; SHADO crews are subject to high turnover, and important characters like George Sewell's compassionate, wisecracking Colonel Freeman disappear without explanation. Our one constant is the driven, stoical

Commander Ed Straker, hypnotically played by Ed Bishop, the towering creation at the heart of *UFO*. This adds to the sense of unpredictability already permeating the series in its depiction of the nebulous, unnamed aliens.

In debut episode 'Identified', they're harvesting human organs to survive, but later display Dalek-shamingly merciless genocidal impulses, while in 'Survival', an alien saves the life of SHADO's brooding beefcake Colonel Paul Foster, the pair developing a silent bond of friendship until the gut-wrenchingly downbeat finale.

These bleak climaxes become a strong element of the show, Straker himself pushed through extreme emotional tortures in heartbreaking character studies 'A Question Of Priorities' and 'Confetti Check A-OK', the ice-cool military leader struggling with personal traumas while bearing the protection of the world on his shoulders.

Despite gaping plot holes, sumptuous explosions and distracting space-gear, Ed Straker makes *UFO* feel like a serious, mature and even profound show. His blend of ruthlessness and vulnerability is the prime reason that it remains so compelling.

Chris Chantler

★★★★★

IF YOU LIKE THIS TRY...



Moonbase 3
Downbeat, futuristic lunar problem-solving from 1973, by *Doctor Who*'s Barry Letts and Terrence Dicks.





Season One

Sci-Fi Now
Must see now!

CLASS School is hell

Details 15 // 420 mins // DVD // 2 January **Creator** Patrick Ness **Cast** Sophie Hopkins, Greg Austin, Fady Elsayed, Vivian Oparah, Katherine Kelly **Distributor** Zentertain

If you've ever come across a mention of *Doctor Who* spin-off *Class* without a comparison to *Buffy The Vampire Slayer* then congratulations – we haven't. Normally such a link would be a good thing, but in truth the similarities turn out to be rather minimal, making its pseudo-tagline more than a tad misleading.

Taking place in the legendary Coal Hill School – home of many a supernatural smackdown over the years – the cast is fittingly young and fresh: arrogant jock Ram (Fady Elsayed), caring mother hen April (Sophie Hopkins), child prodigy Tanya (Vivian Oparah), sensitive alien Charlie (Greg Austin) and his guardian/prisoner Andrea (Katherine Kelly) make up the ensemble, and all do a great job of keeping you invested in their stories and somehow staying relatable in a world that makes it challenging to do so.

For the most part this is a good thing. Patrick Ness's writing follows very much

in the Steven Moffat tradition of never leaving anything unsaid when there's the opportunity for a monologue, but it all feels less self-indulgent here. The focus is more on combining rollicking adventure tales involving surprisingly terrifying monsters and imbuing issues into them rather than focusing solely on the latter. That characters' sexualities are casually mentioned without comment or judgement is a particularly welcome development.

While it's nice to see a show aimed at teenagers that doesn't talk down to its viewers, at the same time it is unrelentingly dark. *Doctor Who* spin-offs (*Torchwood* springs to mind – hell, even *Who* itself at times) have often had a hard time nailing down a tone, and *Class* has a similar problem, joking about extra-terrestrial occurrences one moment before presenting surprisingly graphic death scenes the next.

The overall effect is one that makes this show feel like one big introduction, but somehow it works. By the finale, you know each character inside out, and feel like you've been on a journey with them – even if it was a brief one. Touch wood a second series gets confirmed.

Steve Wright
★★★★★

IF YOU LIKE THIS TRY...

Shadowhunters
Teenagers lust after each other and face off against the supernatural in New York.



Where no fan has gone before

STAR TREK: THE ORIGINAL SERIES – THE RODDENBERRY VAULT

Details 12 // 605 mins // Out now **Creator** Gene Roddenberry **Cast** William Shatner, Leonard Nimoy, James Doohan, DeForest Kelly, Walter Koenig **Distributor** Paramount Home Entertainment



Celebrating 50 years of *Star Trek* has been a year-long operation. From events like Destination Star Trek

to the announcement of a new TV show, now *The Roddenberry Vault* has been released full of special features.

'Inside The Roddenberry Vault' is packed with footage that never made it onto television, from alternate scenes to simply cut-out lines, or bloopers that we've never seen before, the Vault materials come from the cutting room floor, and out of a literal vault.

Put together by Gene's son, Rod, *The Roddenberry Vault* has some truly fascinating footage. With

talking heads from several of today's big names in television honouring a show that they all clearly love.

'Star Trek: Revisiting A Classic' looked back on the making of the series, what it was like on set during film with some appearances from actors, directors are other crew members from the *Original Series*.

Finally, there is 'Strange New Worlds: Visualising the Fantastic' which goes into the creation of the spaceships, transporters and the iconic *Star Trek* imagery. It is here that Shatner makes his appearance.

It is one for completists, but with the 12 episodes you would have already seen before, the only thing you are buying this for are the extras. Given their nostalgia and their quality, they are worth the price tag, but if you don't really care for extra materials, then this isn't for you.

Jen Neal
SHOW ★★★★★ **EXTRAS** ★★★★★

IF YOU LIKE THIS TRY...

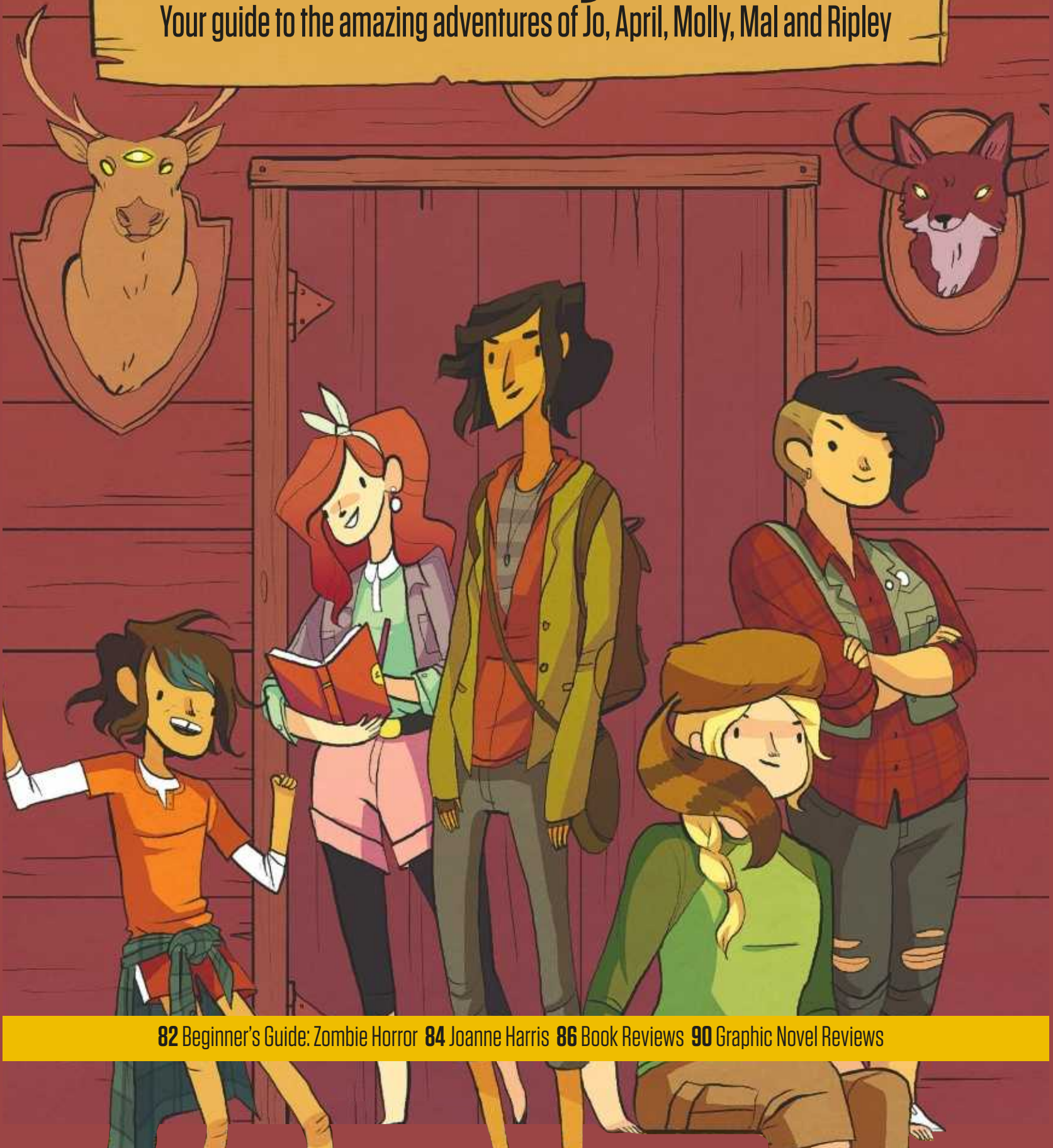
Star Trek: The Original Series
Watch all 80 episodes of the Original Series to kick off your inevitable rewatch!



Sci-Fi Now
Must see now!

⁸⁰Lumberjanes

Your guide to the amazing adventures of Jo, April, Molly, Mal and Ripley



82 Beginner's Guide: Zombie Horror 84 Joanne Harris 86 Book Reviews 90 Graphic Novel Reviews



Lumberjanes, Vol 1: Beware The Kitten Holy

Authors: Jo, April, Molly, Noelle Stevenson, Grace Ellis, Shannon Watters
Artist: Brooke Allen
Published: 9 April 2014
Publisher: BOOM! Studios

Jo, April, Molly, Mal and Ripley are adventurers, best pals and Lumberjane scouts. While tying knots and building fires in the summer, the friends encounter supernatural forces, and take it upon themselves to solve the camp's many mysteries.



Need to Read

Lumberjanes Vol 1: Beware The Kitten Holy

We explore the beautiful world of Lumberjanes, looking for adventure and representation... WORDS POPPY-JAY PALMER



© Jody Calkin

Lumberjanes is built on optimism, amiability and good vibes. It champions working together and individuality. Its motto – ‘friendship to the

max!’ – would be cheesy if the comics weren’t so damn awesome. There’s so much to fall in love with from the very first issue: the rich characters, the thrilling plot, the gorgeous artwork – everything comes together to create the fantastical oddities that fill each page.

‘Lumberjanes’ is the name given to the people who attend Miss Quinzella Thistwin Penniquiquil Thistle Crumpet’s Camp for Hardcore Lady Types, a summer camp in a forest in the middle of nowhere. The great honour of being a bona fide Lumberjane – especially a Lumberjane of the Roanoke cabin – comes with the promise of adventure. There are worse burdens to carry, but the grounds on which the camp was built harbours danger and perplexing puzzles around every corner.

In the first issue, the campers come up against a mysterious woman who can transform into a bear, supernatural three-eyed foxes, ancient booby traps, and more mind-boggling mysteries. Things get tough, and there are always times when they feel like giving up, but they never do; giving up is not what being a Lumberjane is about.

Being a Lumberjane, according to the official scout pledge, is about being brave, strong and doing your best. It’s about being truthful, compassionate, interesting and interested. It’s about paying attention, respecting nature and thinking of others first. Lumberjanes help and protect their friends, and always, *always* strive to make the world a better place. Again, it would be cheesy as hell if it didn’t make us desperately want to sign up for summer camp.

As their camp’s namesake suggests, the core cast of characters – the residents of the Roanoke cabin – are made up of a group of hardcore lady types: Jo, a cool-headed, oftentimes leader of the group; April, a confident and intelligent adventurer with a flair for the dramatic; Molly, a logical, puzzle-solving archer who wears a raccoon called Bubbles on her head as a hat; Mal, a cautious but thorough team member with a talent for crafting over-the-top plans; and Ripley, a one-person storm with the energy and enthusiasm of 1,000 firecrackers.

The Roanoke campers are also often joined on their adventures by Jen, their irritable but well-meaning scout leader,

“ONE OF THE GREATEST THINGS ABOUT LUMBERJANES IS ITS RELENTLESS QUEST FOR INCLUSIVITY”

and Rosie, their tattooed, wood-carving scout master, who was most likely named in honour of Rosie the Riveter.

One of the greatest things about *Lumberjanes* is its relentless quest for inclusivity, as beautifully demonstrated by its characters. Jo, the leader, is transgender. Mal and Molly harbour crushes on each other. The group and their camp friends make up a wonderful mix of ethnic backgrounds. Characters come in all shapes and sizes. *Lumberjanes* celebrates differences and champions those who wouldn’t usually see themselves in popular media. Basically, it’s a reflection of real life and real people – something a lot of comics have been missing.

The inclusivity also comes in the form of its delightfully diverse readership. Fans of almost anything like to see

themselves reflected in their favourite films, shows, books, videogames and comics, a fact that *Lumberjanes* not only respects, but takes in its stride.

There are a lot more people in the world than the dashing white guy who saves the city and gets the girl. There are girls who want to get the girl, and Muslims who are the hero of the story. There are people of colour who are sick of being the sidekick, and trans people who know they are so much more than their gender identity. Like so many comics fans, *Lumberjanes* is fed up of the ‘straight white male’ narrative. Summer camp is over when autumn comes back around, but representation lasts forever.

However, it’s not even exclusively for a female audience; it’s a flat-out adventure comic where the main characters happen to be female. Except for the hyper-feminine April, none of the Roanoke cabin Lumberjanes even wear gendered clothing. They’re just a group of campers in outdoorsy getups, schooling three-eyed foxes and solving supernatural mysteries.

But the diversity within its audience doesn’t stop there. We’re not just talking race, sexuality and gender expression; the *Lumberjanes* fandom is also ageless. Older readers get a sense of nostalgia from it, even if they have never been to summer camp themselves, and younger readers get a sense of adventure, the priceless realisation of ‘I can do that too.’

No matter who you are, *Lumberjanes* constantly provides something to aspire to. Whether you’re hoping for adventure, to build friendships or just to be yourself, its innate optimism makes it feel like anything is possible. The stories and characters might not always be universal, but they’re exactly what some readers need.

Lumberjanes is available now from BOOM! Studios on Comixology.



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us to tackle?

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What you should read next
if you liked Vol 1

Hilda And The Bird Parade

Luke Pearson



Hilda is ready for adventure as she makes friends with a talking raven at the mysterious Bird

Parade. Suddenly, she is whisked up in a whirlwind of quests involving trolls, salt lions and more.

Gotham Academy Vol 1

Becky Cloonan, Brendan Fletcher



If you can't get enough of awesome teens teaming up to

defeat the forces of evil then check out Brendan Fletcher, Becky Cloonan and Karl Kersch's fast-paced graphic novel, set at Gotham City's most prestigious prep school, Gotham Academy.

Lumberjanes/ Gotham Academy

Chynna Clugston-Flores, Rosemary Valero-O'Connell



If you loved Lumberjanes and Gotham Academy then you will absolutely lose your mind when

you read this, a team-up of the school and the summer camp's best and brightest.

Rat Queens, Vol 1: Sass And Sorcery

Kurtis J Wiebe, Roc Upchurch



Graduate from summer camp with a group of boozy battle maidens-for-hire in a

world of unadulterated monster slaying.

Nimona

Noelle Stevenson



This webcomic-turned-graphic-novel combines sci-fi and fantasy tropes. Nimona tells

the story of a shapeshifter and sidekick as she helps her boss carry out maniacal plans.



Zombies don't just moan anymore – in some cases they can talk and love.



As the undead have evolved, so too has zombie literature.

Undead attack

Diary of the undead

WORLD WAR Z
Author: Max Brooks
Publisher: Gerald Duckworth & Co Ltd
Published: 2006
Price: £9.99

Arguably one of the most important instalments in the modern age of zombie novels, *World War Z* (from Mel Brooks' son Max) highlighted the

possibilities of the form, with its multi-format composition proving to be a great story device rather than the gimmick that it so easily could have ended up being. If you've seen the movie then you should still check this out – it's totally different, and all the better for it. With a sequel in the works, there's no better time.

“A tremendous ‘mockumentary’ take on the genre with tons of memorable moments (Royals! astronauts!) #BookClub” @martang66

Fight to survive

Who are the walking dead?

THE REAPERS ARE THE ANGELS
Author: Alden Bell
Publisher: Tor
Published: 2010
Price: £14.52

Released to massive acclaim, this picks up in a United States that has been desolated by the undead, with the survivors eking out an existence

in a world that has turned against them. Interestingly, it's humanity themselves that are the enemy rather than the zombies, with protagonist Temple forced on the run from a brutal killer. There's not a lot of room for optimism here, as you would expect from a novel about the zombie apocalypse, but it's still an excellent read.

“I ALWAYS list that as one of my favourite post-apocalyptic books. It deserves more readers #BookClub” @GemTodd

End of days

Blurring the lines

DAY BY DAY ARMAGEDDON
Author: J.L. Bourne
Publisher: Simon & Schuster
Published: 2010
Price: £8.99

A mixture of the previous two entries, this presents one man's struggle for survival in the form of a series of diary entries, with the rising stakes forcing him to face moral quandaries that beg the question of what it really is to be human. *Day By Day Armageddon* is a real favourite among fans of the sub-genre, and has since spawned three sequels: *Beyond Exile*, *Shattered Hourglass* and *Ghost Run*. All of them are worth a look.

“Read it years ago. It's a good read if you like the first person experience. Ending could've been better #BookClub” @chrisnarbone

After the war

Zombies go high-brow

ZONE ONE
Author: Colson Whitehead
Publisher: Vintage
Published: 2011
Price: £8.99

The zombie novel is easy meat for literary snobs, which is why *Zone One*, written by the Pulitzer-nominated Colson Whitehead, is such a problematic proposition for such people. Taking place in a world where the post-apocalypse has been and gone, leaving the world to return to a state somewhere approaching normality, this was the author's attempt to return to the Stephen King and Isaac Asimov novels he enjoyed as a youth – and it's one we're glad he made.

“One of my favourite works of zombie fiction, beautifully written and shows just what the subgenre can be at its best.” @D_Towsey

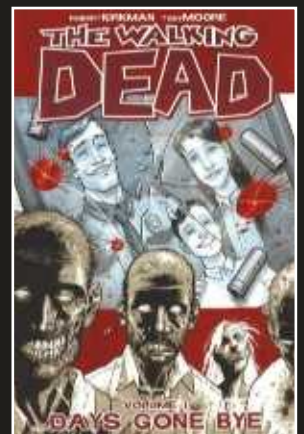
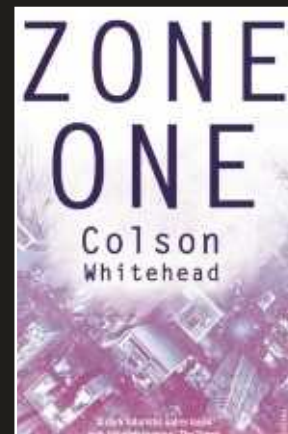
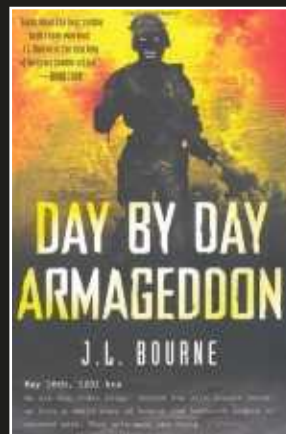
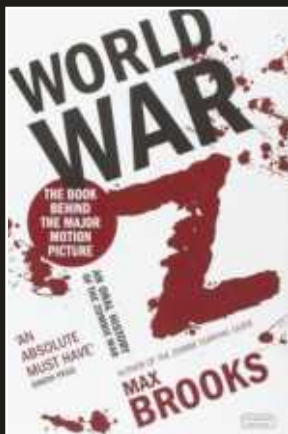
Getting visual

Where the phenomenon began

THE WALKING DEAD VOL 1: DAYS GONE BYE
Author: Robert Kirkman
Publisher: Image Comics
Published: 2004
Price: £13.99

Obviously, AMC's TV series – based on Robert Kirkman's comics – has become a ratings juggernaut, but checking out where it all began is well worth your time. Gradually, the story radically branches off from the comic books (right down to who lives and who dies), but the first volume is pretty faithful, opening with sheriff Rick Grimes waking up in a deserted hospital to find that the world has gone to hell. Still going strong, this is the best place to start.

“Revolutionised the way I saw the zombie apocalypse, and made me care more about the humans. #BookClub” @Jbarnes532



Until The End Of The Nine Worlds

Joanne Harris on why Norse mythology never loses its edge WORDS JONATHAN HATFULL

There's a slightly odd perception of what fantasy means with some people," Joanne Harris tells us. "Fantasy is basically at the heart of where we're coming from, from a literary perspective. *Gilgamesh* is fantasy, *Beowulf* is fantasy, half of Shakespeare is fantasy. Nobody sneers at those things."

We're talking to the author, who is best known for novels like *Chocolat* and *Blackberry Wine*, about the new reissue of her 2007 book, *Runemarks*. Set in the Norse world after Ragnarok, it finds young village outcast Maddy embracing her magical potential with the help of some mysterious strangers, who bear a striking resemblance to certain gods. Harris followed *Runemarks* with *Runelight* and 2014's *The Gospel Of Loki*, and is currently working on a Norse mythology book, "Which hopefully squares the circle between *Runemarks* and *Gospel Of Loki*. If I can manage to do it, it should complete that narrative arc."

Do you remember when you first got interested in Norse mythology?

I was about six or seven. I've always been interested in Norse myths. I think partly because they seem very local to me. I live in Yorkshire; it's a place that is

still kind of steeped in the culture of the Viking people, and the language is full of it – there are still leavings and artefacts all over the place. I also think they're very accessible stories to a child. They seem very human and very close to life.

It does feel like they can constantly be reinvented for new audiences.

I think so, yes. Partly because there isn't a huge body of contemporary writing about the myths, so there's a lot of scope for imagining what else there might have been as part of those myths, and the characters are great. They're well drawn and very recognisable characters that people can relate to.

We've got the retellings by Snorri Sturluson, who had an agenda that had to do with completing the Christianisation of Scandinavia, and so his retelling was about bringing order out of chaos and keeping chaos at bay. And then we get the resurgence in the 17th century where the myths were made all about exploring, because it was a time of exploration. Then you had the Victorians, who wanted tales of empire and heroism, and then in the 20th century it was much more about ambivalence and antiheroes, and the idea that gods can be flawed and human.

How did *Runemarks* first come about?

I wrote a very early proto-version of it when I was still in my teens, and Maddy was the central character there, although I wasn't sure what she was going to turn into. And then when I rewrote it, I basically rewrote it for my daughter when she was about the right age to start getting into Norse myths. She was my earliest critic, I read a few chapters to her as I went along, and it became clear that there were certain characters she liked more. She liked things to be funny, and she put in orders. She said she wanted werewolves and snakes, and, "Don't kill him, you have to bring so-and-so back from the dead," and that's what happened.

Maddy's a character with agency – she's not just getting swept along.

Yes, quite, and I liked the idea that she was dangerous because she could read. It's not so much her powers as that she has this questioning attitude that nobody else has, because everybody else has stepped into line. The idea that she doesn't just accept the status quo as it is, and wants to know more, and doesn't understand why people won't tell her.

Is Loki as much fun to write as you'd imagine he would be?

Oh, Loki's huge fun. [He] tends to run away with me, but that's what *The Gospel Of Loki* was for: to contain that voice and give it some expression without him kind of overrunning all the books. I figured out that whatever the topic, he would always be irreverent about it and rude, and would always belittle anything that is in the least bit grand or epic. I wouldn't have seen Loki using any kind of epic or grandiose language, because it wouldn't be in his nature; he would think that was ridiculous.

Runemarks is available to buy now, published by Gollancz.



Joanne Harris on Shirley Jackson

Why you need to read more of the queen of Gothic horror

"I've been a fan of hers for such a long time; I'm rather hoping for a resurgence of interest in her, and hopefully some more new stuff, because I know they have a reserve of unpublished work by her that they're eking out. They found a bundle of manuscripts under the porch or something in her old house a few years ago, I think they found about six or seven novels and a bunch of short stories, and they've been quietly releasing them ever since.

"She's a wonderful writer and relatively unknown in this country until recently, which I think is terribly sad given that she's so influential, especially in the States, but people forget that it's her influence, and that the influences are so diverse.

"I don't think *The Wasp Factory* would have existed without *We Have Always Lived In The Castle*. Look at the way that narrative evolves and look at the beats and revelations: it's almost a direct parallel set in a completely different place in a completely different voice. Stephen King speaks very highly of her, and I think has been very influential in raising her profile in the States, but it's nice to see more of that."



This year sees Joanne Harris revisit her Norse mythology-inspired *Runemarks*.



Which sub-genre
would you like to
see tackled next?

Let us know on Twitter
or Facebook



Classic Zombie fiction tropes



Real-world settings

The best way to make any far-fetched concept relatable is to place it squarely in the real world. Max Brooks took note, not only making *World War Z* a global affair, but also writing *The Zombie Survival Guide*, which lent viral credibility to his take on the undead.



Allegory

From consumerism to critiques of the mindless, unthinking society we have arguably become, zombie novels have very much followed George A Romero's path in shining a searing light on our lives. For the most blatant example of this, read Stephen King's *Cell*, in which people are literally rendered insensible by their mobiles.



Rebuilding the world

At other times, zombie literature views people coming to terms with the aftermath of the event and settling down, albeit in a different landscape. *World War Z* presents the beginning of this, *Zone One* depicts an intriguing take on it, and *Warm Bodies* likewise does so.



Heart

In the same way as vampires went from mysterious predators to loved-up lust magnets, even zombies have been deemed to warrant a whole lot of loving. *Warm Bodies*' R may eat brains, but all he desires is a heart, and Darren Shan's B just wants to find his place in an inhospitable world.

A Beginner's Guide To

Zombie Fiction

When Hell Is empty, the undead invade your books! WORDS STEVE WRIGHT

Zombies are a relatively new phenomenon when it comes to literature. While cinema has traditionally mimicked the written word, the use of the undead can instead be linked to the emergence of zombie movies ushered in by George A Romero via his *Living Dead* films.

Fittingly, it was also Romero who assisted the zombie's transition into book form. Beginning with a foreword from the man himself, the first *Book Of The Dead* (1989) contains short stories from the likes of Stephen King and Ramsey Campbell, and can be viewed as the first true example of the zombie form finding an audience on the printed page – unless you include HP Lovecraft's 1921 short story *Herbert West-Reanimator*, of course.

It took a while for it to catch on, but catch on it undoubtedly did. While some stories (notably Tony Burgess's *Pontypool Changes Everything*) went on to spawn their own movies, it went quiet for a while. It all boils down to the sub-genre's central quandary: how do you make a zombie scary when you can't see it lumbering/legging it towards you?

Max Brooks had the answer. Emulating the format of *Dracula*, *World War Z* comprises a collection of reports, first-person accounts, newspaper extracts and interviews from those who survived the undead uprising, depicting humanity's downfall and rise as it gets to grips with its new world order.

From then on it was open season on the zombie apocalypse, with many authors giving their own slants on the

slaving masses. Charlie Higson's *The Enemy* saga and David Moody's *Autumn* books provided ample brain food; Seth Grahame-Smith's *Pride & Prejudice & Zombies* melded period drama with the post-apocalypse, and Isaac Marion's *Warm Bodies* gave the undead a dash of romance.

Like the very creatures on which it is based, the medium continues to evolve. Boasting a plethora of films and books, it's proving unstoppable.



Max Brooks reinvented the zombie novel with *World War Z*.

© Gabbot

INTERVIEW

Joanne Harris



“LOKI IS HUGE FUN – HE
TENDS TO RUN AWAY
WITH ME!”
JOANNE HARRIS



Your Top 5 Most wanted sequels to genre classics

CHOOSE YOUR TOP FIVE @SCIFINOW ON TWITTER



1. IT

"I was a bit disappointed when Stephen King did a sequel to *The Shining*, because I'd love a sequel to *IT*!"

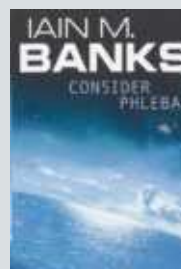
@Danburden1138



2. The Moon Of Gomrath

"Alan Garner's fantasy series stopped after *The Moon Of Gomrath*, just when Susan was becoming really interesting."

@Siegel_Jan



3. Consider Phlebas

"Consider Phlebas. It would be great to have a novel centred on the Mind that was rescued."

@Grizzlefur



4. The Midwich Cuckoos

"All of the Wyndhams. *The Chrysalids* is basically a prequel to something incredible."

@EwaSR



5. The Princess Bride

"Easy. *The Princess Bride*. I want my promised sequel! What happens next?! Do they kill Fezzik?!"

@sarawezzie

Details Author: Stephen Baxter Publisher: Gollancz Price: £20 Released: 19 January

THE MASSACRE OF MANKIND

Sometimes they come back...

One of the classic rules for creating a sequel is to go bigger than your predecessor: to introduce more mythology, expand the geographical setting, or bring in more characters. Stephen Baxter's *The Massacre Of Mankind*, the HG Wells' Estate-authorized sequel to *War Of The Worlds*, does this, and builds out from Wells' claustrophobic narrative to produce something entertaining and expansive.

There are all sorts of pitfalls to be found when following on from a story as beloved and as influential as *War Of The Worlds*, not to mention from an author with the distinctive clipped British style

of Wells. But Baxter already has one authorised Wells sequel to his name (*The Time Ships*, following *The Time Machine*), and doesn't attempt to mimic or play down the previous text.

Instead of continuing directly with Wells' narrator, he transfers the story to a female protagonist, Julie Elphinstone, who appeared in the brother's narrative in *War Of The Worlds*. Wells' unnamed narrator becomes Walter Jenkins, a sideline character who happened to write a best-selling, non-fiction memoir of the First Martian War, much to the chagrin of those featured within it.

It's 14 years later, and Elphinstone is a Stateside journalist intent on a successful career when she is called back to Europe by ex-brother-in-law Jenkins. He believes the Martians are gearing up for another invasion, and the human race begins to prepare as much as possible, but in the event they are swept easily aside. Jenkins accurately predicts that the Martians will have adapted to the agent of their first defeat, the humble bacteria, and come up with another plan to defeat the second global invading force.

The globalised narrative works well when connecting the sequel thematically to Wells' novel, particularly the Darwinian ideas of survival and adaptation that Wells plays with. Here, humans and Martians are pitted against each other in a classic struggle for existence, fighting not only over their environment as the Martians look to expand across the solar system, but also over their bodies, as the horrific purpose of humans in the invaders' plan becomes more apparent. Chilling moments of quiet horror are mined from this clash, as well as the more rollicking adventure story style that Baxter adopts.

There are moments when Baxter's desire for detail in his alternate post-Martian history slows the pace down somewhat, but it's never long before the plot whirs back into action again. The section in which he moves around the world to different countries for different experiences of the invasion is excellent, offering a united human involvement. Elphinstone is also a great protagonist, battling not only the Martians, but also the men around her to be taken seriously as a woman.

Baxter's wider perspective is a welcome expansion of the *War Of The Worlds* story, and one that delights in exploring the transformed paths that a post-invasion 20th century world might take, as well as the capacity for humanity's will to survive.

Becky Lea

★★★★★



IF YOU LIKE THIS TRY...

The Kraken Wakes
John Wyndham
Wyndham's classic finds humanity dealing with alien landings, unaware that it's an invasion force.



Details Author: Vic James Publisher: Pan Macmillan Price: £7.99 Released: 26 January

GILDED CAGE **Mean magicians**

What would Britain be like if Lord Voldemort had won the First and Second Wizarding Wars? *Gilded Cage* might have the answer. Here, magic users and non-magic users are segregated, with the 'Skilled' section of society living it up in glittering mansions, and the rest

scrabbling around the edges. And under an entirely magical political system, Muggle types are all required to submit to ten years' worth of 'slavedays', which are exactly as grim as they sound.

Facing off against that grimness is the Hadley family. Once their youngest comes of age, the whole Hadley family head off into servitude together. But while both parents and daughters are sent to a posh estate to serve the aristocratic Jardines, teenaged son Luke is yanked away and made to work in a Dickensian nightmare factory.

Scarily, that might be the better deal: although the labour is backbreaking, Luke soon finds allies in a makeshift rebellion. Meanwhile, his sisters are subject to the whims of the Jardine heirs, and keeping them happy might be the most lethal work of all.

The scope of Vic James's debut novel is staggering: in under 300 pages, she creates a sturdy alternate history with a carefully constructed political system. Comparisons to

other Young Adult titles are easy to make – it's a bit *Harry Potter*, a bit *Hunger Games* – but this, the first in the *Dark Gifts* series, is fascinating in its own right.

It's smart, engrossing and incredibly snappily written, with so many compelling characters and pulse-quickenings situations that the whole book just flies by. We apologise for the cliché, but it is that good. It keeps you gripped once the action picks up.

Really, its only flaw is that it's so short. James clearly knows her world inside out, and it's frustrating not to be able to explore further. Luckily, the second book is only about six months away. Get on it now before someone makes the movie, which in the current climate is sadly totally plausible soon.

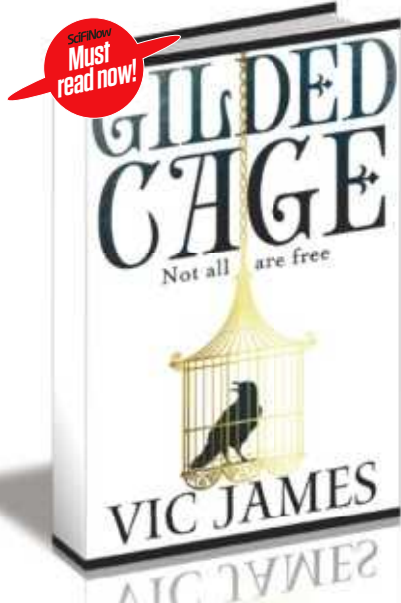
Sarah Dobbs

★★★★★

IF YOU LIKE THIS TRY...



Half Bad
Sally Green
White witches are good, black witches are bad. Or are they? Another take on magic and identity.



YOUR READS

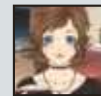
What you lot have been reading this month



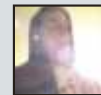
"The Three Body Problem. Superb. #BookClub"
@dOugalmcfrugal



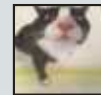
"The Lies Of Locke Lamora and I'm enjoying it very much, thanks for asking. #BookClub"
@jhenrybenmore



"Reading Rise, by Mira Grant. Best zombie series EVER. #BookClub"
@crazyjane13



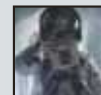
"Gardens Of The Moon. Having a great time. #BookClub"
@HamSpanner



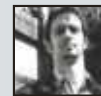
"The Young Messiah by Anne Rice. A story about a year in the life of Jesus as a boy. Definitely enjoying it #BookClub"
@farscape08



"Just finished @Gergaroth's Infernal, I thought it was a really interesting book, Stratus is a great character. #BookClub"
@Cascararogue



"Phantoms by Dean Koontz. An eerie and atmospheric story that gradually builds a creeping sense of dread. Really good! #BookClub"
@paul_bowler



"It may be very different to Blade Runner, but finally trying Philip K Dick's Do Androids Dream Of Electric Sheep? #BookClub"
@ParsonsFiction



"Recently started reading the Harry Potter books now on The Chamber Of Secrets great stories #BookClub" @philbooty



"Been reading A Closed And Common Orbit. Such a great sequel, love the first book and this is just as good. #BookClub"
@sarawezzie

Details Author: Mark Frost Publisher: Macmillan Price: £9.99 Released: Out now

THE SECRET HISTORY OF TWIN PEAKS **Damn fine novel**

Tie-in material can be a risky proposition: get it wrong, and it bears all the hallmarks of a shameless cash-in.

David Lynch and Mark Frost have always done things their way, and released in the build-up to the upcoming third season, Frost's *The Secret History Of Twin Peaks* is a refreshingly different entity altogether, serving as part history book, part novel and part Season Three teaser.

Written as a compilation of case notes, letters, newspaper and other documents compiled by an unknown resident, we are taken through the evolution of Twin Peaks, from its humble beginnings to the mecca for cherry-pie-and-coffee enthusiasts it became.

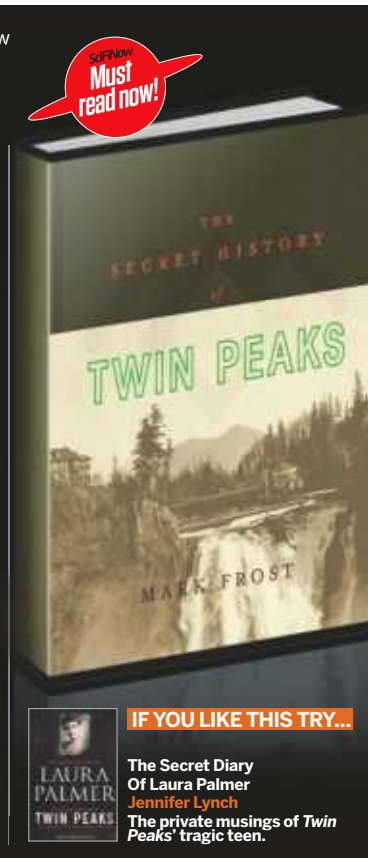
While we don't want to delve too far into what it entails, we can confirm that it's very, very good. Put together with utmost commitment paid to its viral tie-in feel, it's a true collector's item for fans of the show.

The more you read on, the better it gets. With the mention of a Milford here, a Packard there and then a Martell, there's plenty of back story and more besides. Sometimes the danger of over-elaborating is that the central mystique gets hampered, but that is avoided here in style.

We appreciate how vague this review is, but we honestly don't want to spoil the surprise. Read this while rewatching the first two seasons – just keep an eye out for the owls; they're not what they seem.

Steve Wright

★★★★★



IF YOU LIKE THIS TRY...
The Secret Diary Of Laura Palmer
Jennifer Lynch
The private musings of Twin Peaks' tragic teen.

Tell us what you're reading
on Twitter or Facebook



60 SECONDS WITH



CIXIN LIU

You were an engineer – what drove you to become a writer?

I was a sci-fi fan before. I read books like *20,000 Leagues Under The Sea* and all those kinds of books, which drove me to become a writer, from being a fan.

The *Three Body Problem* is set in the past – with the Cultural Revolution – and *The Dark Forest* and *The Death's End* set in the future. Why did you choose that event as a background?

One of the key reasons is that I need the female protagonist to lose faith totally in humanity. In the history of China, the recent history, this is one single event that made you disappointed in humanity.

So it was not my intention to use the Cultural Revolution to reflect on reality; it was more that the story needed it as a backdrop, and that's why it was included.

There's the Dark Forest theory in *The Dark Forest*, I believe that this is an extreme condition in the full spectrum of possibilities in the vastness of the universe in a not-so-distant Earth as we become more connected.

Do Western audiences receive *The Three Body Problem* differently to Chinese audiences?

There's more commonality than differences between Western and Chinese audiences. There are still differences, for Western audiences it's new to them, something novel – all the Chinese elements in the story.

I think that for Western audiences, things like Cultural Revolution are not entirely unfamiliar because historically there are events that are similar – like the Nazis and the Holocaust. And the book 1984, what transpires in the book kind of echoes with my trilogy.

There's a film being made for *TTBP* – how much input do you have for it?



There are two aspects that I was heavily involved in: one is the script, the second is the VFX and concept design and visuals.

The Three Body Problem trilogy is available now.

Details Author: Adam Nevill Publisher: Macmillan Price: £12.99 Released: 12 January

UNDER A WATCHFUL EYE **Gothic paranoia**

A writer as cynical as he is jittery, an old acquaintance who may be magician and a whole heap of wyrd history leads us into Adam Nevill's utterly fascinating tale, *Under A Watchful Eye*. While recalling titans such as King and Poe, it is original, surprising and (at times) eyes-to-the-side terrifying.

As with Nevill's *Lost Girl*, the story is set in the safety of recognisable locations in Devon and student-land London. From this landscape of genteel idleness, it is totally believable that a rag-tag cast of reprobates materialise. Chief among them is Ewan, a sometime nemesis that everyone has met at some point. Long descriptions of Ewan establish a will-driven sense of menace that makes the fantastical elements believable.

Language shifts between bloke-talk and vocabulary so rich that calling to the invisible seems natural. Indeed, horror fans may

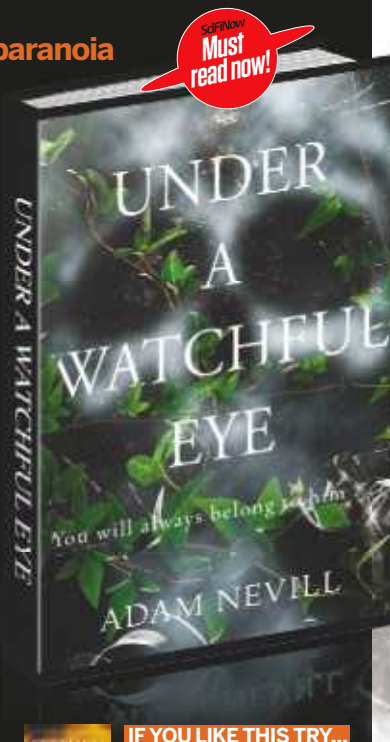
recognise references that convey paranormal paranoia perfectly while also raising a snort for anyone who has stumbled the internet into strange places; a nod to the sublime-ridiculous in south London is 'true' regardless. Group mentality is described via evocations of pretty words and saliva-stained sheets that make you itch.

Structurally, early passages drag a little, though they establish the tone for terrifying action sequences and result in tragic resonance. While genre boxes are ticked, Nevill alters the narrative voice to feel like a spiritual journey, while sardonic meta-sections stop things from getting too downbeat.

Under A Watchful Eye makes the reader despise, despair of and desperately want everything the narrator experiences. It's a staggeringly ambitious work that questions the goal of the human soul itself.

Charlie Oughton

★★★★★



IF YOU LIKE THIS TRY...



'Jerusalem's Lot' in Night Shift
Stephen King
A man discovers family history and angry entities in a crumbling township with infestation problems.

Details Author: Steph Swainston Publisher: Gollancz Price: £18.99 Released: Out now

FAIR REBEL **Storm the Castle**

The fifth novel in the *Castle* series of books from Steph Swainston is a complete rush of adrenaline and fury that delivers a bittersweet lament to the loss of arts and culture in a world rife with conflict. As Swainston

puts it, turning artists into "engineers of war" who are tasked with inventing the best ways to destroy when their true calling is in creation is sad beyond belief.

It is with this sense of complete sorrow that the book opens, with a powerful melancholic hum that declares the death of music after the passing of Swallow. That desperate loss of humanity and beauty is felt deeply as you leaf through the pages, reading the richly detailed descriptions of battle between the immortal Circle and the insects.

If you haven't already done so then you should acquaint yourself with the previous instalments of the series, as this one charges mercilessly into ferocious battle. There are a few mysteries to solve, with winged messenger Jant curious as to how Swallow died. The cause of death is suicide via poison, yet Jant has suspicions and investigates. The main mystery, which ignites a thorough inquiry through the Fourlands, is how a plethora of gunpowder barrels have disappeared, which in turn causes an extreme number

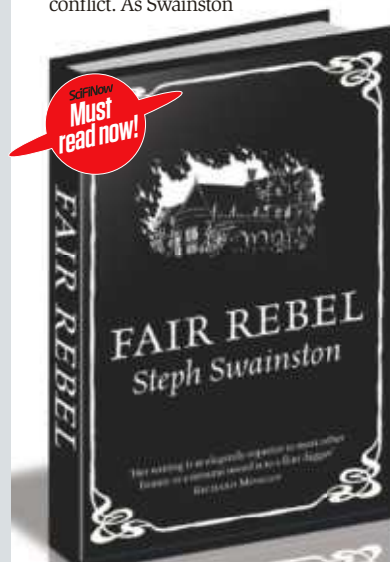
of deaths. The Empire now has the power of cannon to help them with its war, and it's clear a stealthy enemy doesn't want them to succeed.

Swainston's description of the blood-soaked battlefields is a mash-up of World War I and II imagery with an Anglo-Saxon twist. Tapestries, tents and underground tunnels where splashes of mud and grime cover her characters amidst mass explosions conjures up an involving and intense ambience. There's burning of books with the loss of literature and knowledge also tapping into the idea of the rise of fascism.

This is a hugely entertaining, smart and passionately rendered novel that despite its fantasy setting has pressing real-world issues on its mind.

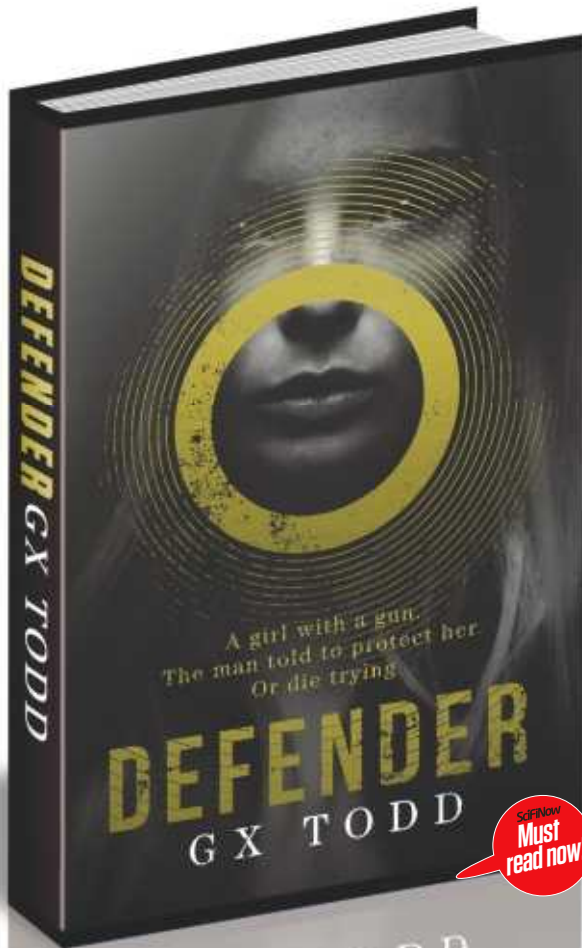
Katherine McLaughlin

★★★★★



IF YOU LIKE THIS TRY...

Look To Windward
Iain M Banks
A rich and playful examination of war and its aftermath, and the loose sequel to *Consider Phlebas*.



Details Author: GX Todd Publisher: Headline Price: £12.99 Released: 12 January

DEFENDER *In the back of your mind*

Debut author GX Todd's *Defender* shows there's still life to be found in the post-apocalypse, offering a rich blend of horror and heart with a highly effective high-concept genre conceit.

The little voices we all have in the back of our heads bring about the end of civilisation as we know it, convincing their hosts to hurt themselves and others. Several years after this catastrophic event begins, a taciturn loner called Pilgrim travels through ruined America, accompanied by his (mostly) non-violent Voice.

When they come across a headstrong teenage girl named Lacey who's determined to travel east to find her sister, Pilgrim agrees to give her a ride. However, it's a dangerous world out there, especially when you get tangled up with a terrifying gang of Voice-hunting survivors

The end of the world is a busy place in genre fiction, and while there are some obvious influences here (particularly Stephen King, and not just *The Stand*), Todd carves out a space of her own. It's certainly not for the squeamish, with frequent bloody violence (there's a reason for the Clive Barker comparisons) and a

tendency to kick our heroes when they're down, but there is a real warmth that comes from those characters as they trade POV chapters and gradually come to depend on each other. It's tough, but it's not mean, and it definitely makes an impact.

As for the voices, the author cannily keeps a lot of details hidden. It's not even clear if Pilgrim's Voice (wry, sensible and cautious) knows itself, although it clearly knows more than it tells our characters.

There are times throughout the novel when it feels like things are being too obviously withheld (there are three books still to go in this series), and some of the secondary characters could use a little more shading, but this is sharp, gruelling and gripping, and we can't wait to explore this harsh world further and see what Todd has to offer us in part two.

Jonathan Hatfull

★★★★★



IF YOU LIKE THIS TRY...

Bird-Box
Josh Malerman
A woman trains her children to escape blindfolded in a world where only the sightless can survive.

“IT'S A DANGEROUS WORLD, ESPECIALLY WHEN YOU GET TANGLED UP WITH A GANG OF VOICE-HUNTING SURVIVORS”

Details Author: Elly Blake Publisher: Hodder & Stoughton Price: £9.99 Released: 4 May

FROSTBLOOD *If Elsa met Daenerys...*

Unless you have been living in Outer Mongolia, no doubt you will have heard talk of a popular little animated movie called *Frozen*.

Cleverly jumping on the bandwagon, Elly Blake has a ready-made audience for her new, YA series, *Frostblood*. Ramping up the raunch factor and adding some gladiator action, it is time for *Frozen* fans of the past to grow up.

Ruby (or Elsa), has spent all her 17 years attempting to suppress her powers for creating fire, she lives in a world ruled by the cold-blooded Frost King. Firebloods are considered to be dangerous, filthy traitors to the throne, and have been hunted down and killed. Inevitably, Ruby and her hot fingers give themselves away, the Frost Soldiers are soon raiding her village and stop at nothing to get their fireling.

Naturally there is help, which comes in the form of a darling fraternity of monks, who despite worshipping the frost have a mission of their own, and

believe Ruby might just have what they need to overthrow the King.

Ruby is infuriatingly bland at times; her stubborn behaviour is predictable, and she doesn't have any oomph. It's understandable that her shouty, strong, brooding mentor Arcus wants to dump her in water troughs so often.

There are a few little surprises in store as you read deeper – some you may see a mile away, and admittedly they are a bit formulaic. Blake has a smooth, relaxed style of writing, and manages to keep things quite chilled (no pun intended) in part one. With masterful visualisation, this is great preparation for part two.

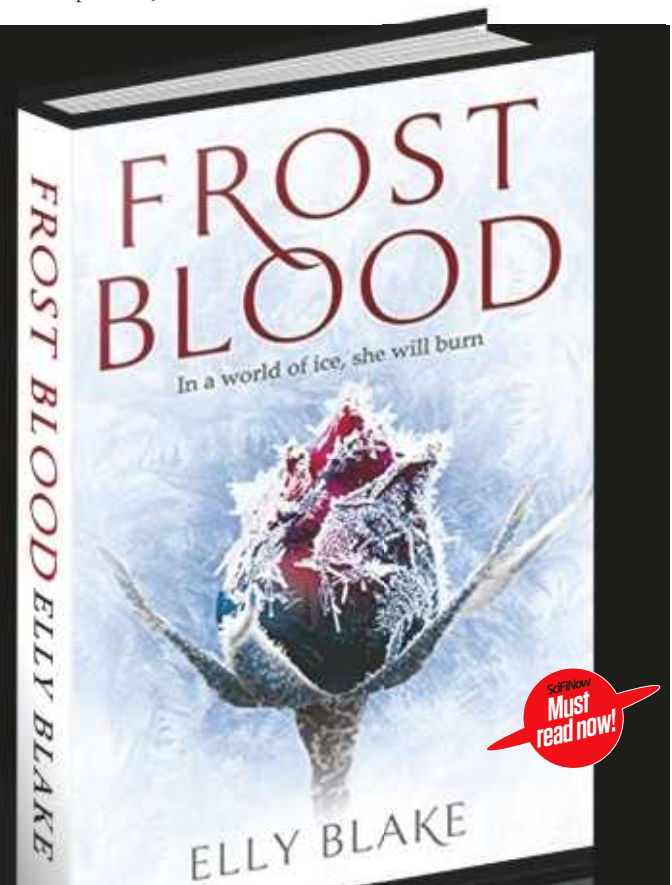
Claire Nicholls

★★★★★



IF YOU LIKE THIS TRY...

Three Dark Crowns
Kendare Blake
Royal triplets, equal heirs to the throne, must each use their unique magic powers to fight for the right to wear the crown.



SciFiNow
Must
read now!



BOOK CLUB

Moon Girl And Devil Dinosaur // House Of Penance // Moebius Library

Details Writers: Amy Reeder, Brandon Montclare **Artist:** Natacha Bustos
Publisher: Marvel **Price:** £14.99 **Released:** 12 January

MOON GIRL AND DEVIL DINOSAUR: VOL 2

Life finds a way

An under-the-radar hit for Marvel, this is one of the few 'All-New All-Different' series from the House of Mouse to also be an all-ages read.

Young genius Lunella Lafayette is desperately trying to find a cure for the unlocked Inhuman genes within her and others, which put

her on a collision course with an unusual hero from a bygone age. It's your classic girl-meets-dinosaur tale, really.

The mismatched BFFs face a new set of adventures, including *Freaky Friday* shenanigans, a mysterious love interest and a new arch-nemesis.

The comic series requires little previous knowledge of the Marvel universe, which is well balanced against concise exposition that is only rolled out when necessary. Page layouts are creative while remaining accessible to both new and young readers alike, but it's really the character work behind Luna and Devil Dinosaur that makes this series function so well.

Laura Sneddon

★★★★★



SCIFINOW
Must read now!

Details Writer: Moebius **Artist:** Moebius **Publisher:** Dark Horse
Price: £41.99 **Released:** Out now

MOEBIUS LIBRARY: THE WORLD OF EDENA

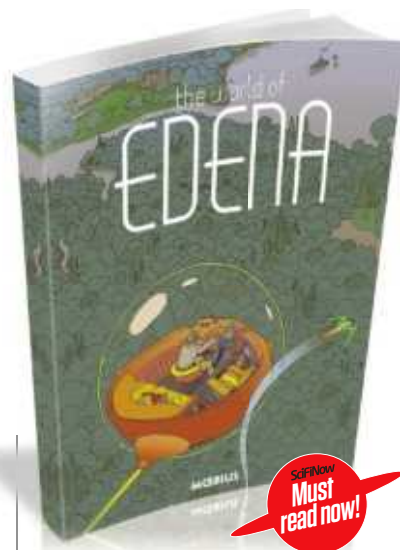
Créative Technologie?

Admittedly, it has a rather daunting price tag, but consider the quality: a long out-of-print masterwork by Moebius, perhaps the greatest comic-book artist of all time.

For existing fans this is a no-brainer, as Dark Horse has produced a luxury hardcover complete with material that has never been translated into English before. Moebius, aka Jean Giraud, is best known for the influential *Blueberry*, his collaborations with Alejandro Jodorowsky (*The Incal*), and his celebrated film design work (*Alien* et al).

One of the great names in science fiction history, Moebius produced the multi-volume fantasy series *Le Monde D'Edena* from 1985-2001 – a project that unfurled from an initial promotion album for Citroën back in 1983.

Stel and Atan, travellers of the galaxy, find themselves grounded on a barren planet with an old Citroën model to carry them to their destination – a point of curiosity that crashed their asteroid and ship. Stumbling upon a settlement of folk similarly drawn to the planet, a mysterious pyramid transports them to a new world, a 'Garden of Eden'. What began as an advertisement tool turned into a vast series, as Moebius found



SCIFINOW
Must read now!

himself unable to tear himself away from the possibilities he had created.

The two protagonists are notable for their near genderless appearance, and also for their burgeoning rediscovery of their own humanity. As with much of Moebius' work, the fantastical is employed from the very beginning with mechanical dreamwork and philosophical wonderings, but the latter is given more weight than usual, with the artist deliberately tapping into the more positive zones of his subconscious in an effort to distance the medium from its morbid tendencies of the time.

All five chapters of the *Edena Cycle* saga are collected here in celebration of the 60th anniversary of Moebius' first published comic.

Laura Sneddon

★★★★★



IF YOU LIKE THIS TRY...

Arzach
Moebius

A silent warrior rides in strange worlds. It's wordless, so can be bought in any language!

Details Writer: Peter J Tomasi **Artists:** Ian Bertram, Dave Stewart
Publisher: Dark Horse **Price:** £16.99 **Released:** 26 January

HOUSE OF PENANCE

Better call the Ghostfacers

Winchester is a name familiar to fans of the supernatural – for more reasons than one to some fans of a certain CW TV show – and *House Of Penance* is based on the true story of the original infamous house. Home to Sarah Winchester, widow of the celebrated gun magnate, the house is genuinely well known for its architectural

strangeness, massive size, relentless construction and... ghostly activity.

What better artist to lend this tale an entirely new shine of horror than Ian Bertram (*Bowery Boys*), master of the gruesome and ghastly, and perhaps one of the most underrated names in comics today.

A new stranger appears on Sarah's doorstep as she obsesses with trying to cleanse away the blood curse of the Winchester rifle. Scratched lines and grotesque faces recall the work of Burton and Quietly both, an exquisite delight for any fan of the Gothic or terrifying.

In truth, the horror is enchanting and rewarding, but it is the artwork that is truly sublime and completely worth the price alone.

Laura Sneddon

★★★★★



SCIFINOW
Must read now!



Alien The Hills Have Eyes Transformers

MAY 1995
£1.50

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75 YEARS OF
**WONDER
WOMAN**

92 THE DC ICON ACCORDING
TO HER BEST WRITERS

30 YEARS OF
**ROBOTS IN
DISGUISE**

106 BEHIND THE SCENES ON THE
FILM THAT KILLED OPTIMUS PRIME



INTERVIEW

**THE HILLS
HAVE EYES**

PLUTO ON WES CRAVEN'S
CULT SHOCKER 104



A SCIFINOW
MONTHLY





THE COMPLETE GUIDE TO ★ WONDER WOMAN ★

AFTER 75 YEARS OF BONDAGE, GODS, WAR AND STAR-SPANGLED PANTS, WONDER WOMAN STILL HITS THE HEADLINES. WE ASKED WRITERS LIKE GRANT MORRISON, ALEX DI CAMPI AND MORE ABOUT WHAT MAKES HER TICK....

WORDS LAURA SNEDDON

Despite being one of the tent-pole films of the year, only one element of *Batman V Superman: Dawn Of Justice* received near universal acclaim: Wonder Woman. The third side of DC Comics' holy trinity, Gal Gadot's Diana Prince effortlessly stole the show in a film that was all about pitting man against man in its all-brooding, all-grunting masculinity.

It's a feat that Wonder Woman has been pulling off since her introduction back in 1941, when she quickly moved over to her own two titles as readers followed the Amazonian princess on her Earth-bound adventures. Created by William Moulton Marston, his wife Elizabeth Holloway Marston and artist Harry G Peter, it's safe to say that Wonder Woman's makers were a little... different. The Marstons, key creators of an important component of the modern polygraph, based Diana's physical appearance on that of their polyamorous lover, Olive Byrne.

Among the many popular superheroes created by men, Wonder Woman's creators were of a lifestyle still seen as somewhat alternative today, and Moulton Marston's own intentions were particularly unconventional: "Wonder Woman is psychological propaganda for the new type of woman who should, I believe, rule the world."

Her lack of weapons were testament to these ideals, with instead a polygraph-esque lasso of truth and bulletproof bracelets, inspired by those worn by Byrne. Her sole weakness was 'Aphrodite's Law', which stipulated that should Diana be bound against her will by a man, her strength disappeared – a subtle nod to the importance of consent in BDSM practises. That female dominance, radical philosophy and unique place in superhero comics as a long-lived woman

among male characters is precisely what has drawn many creators to tell her story.

"Wonder Woman was the only member of DC's original 'trinity' of superheroes I felt I hadn't really got a handle on, and I was keen to dig into the soul of the character in the way I had done with Superman and Batman," reveals Grant Morrison, writer of *Wonder Woman: Earth One* with artist Yanick Paquette.

"In the case of those two characters I re-read representative stories from their entire publishing history, but with Wonder Woman I went straight to the source and based my entire take on the Forties stories of Wonder Woman's creator, William Moulton Marston. Marston's vision, aided and abetted by his wife, Elizabeth and their lover, Olive Byrne, is so personal and so unlike anything else in comics or genre fiction that it felt genuinely radical, exciting, and even

shockingly provocative to rethink it in the context of contemporary debates about gender and sexuality."

Morrison speaks of how he was becoming weary of writing the same 'boys adventures'. "Wonder Woman offered an opportunity to try a different stylistic approach – one less focused on fights, quests and explosive climaxes, and more on emotional dynamics. I was influenced by the influx of women creators into the mainstream comic-book industry, and the general sense of powerful female 'energies' poised to remake culture, precipitating the reactionary rise of misogynistic porn culture, anti-feminism, rape apologists and the rest of the toxic online brew. In my other life as an occultist and magician, I equated this feminine current with the Qabalistic sphere of Binah, where I've found myself becalmed after a lengthy and tortured spell exploring the Abyss of Daath in my life and work. ➤



"SHE'S A HISTORICAL FIGURE AS WELL, A PILLAR OF THE COMICS CULTURE AND OF THE POP CULTURE THROUGH THE VARIETY OF MEDIA SHE APPEARED IN"

MARGUERITE SAUVAGE

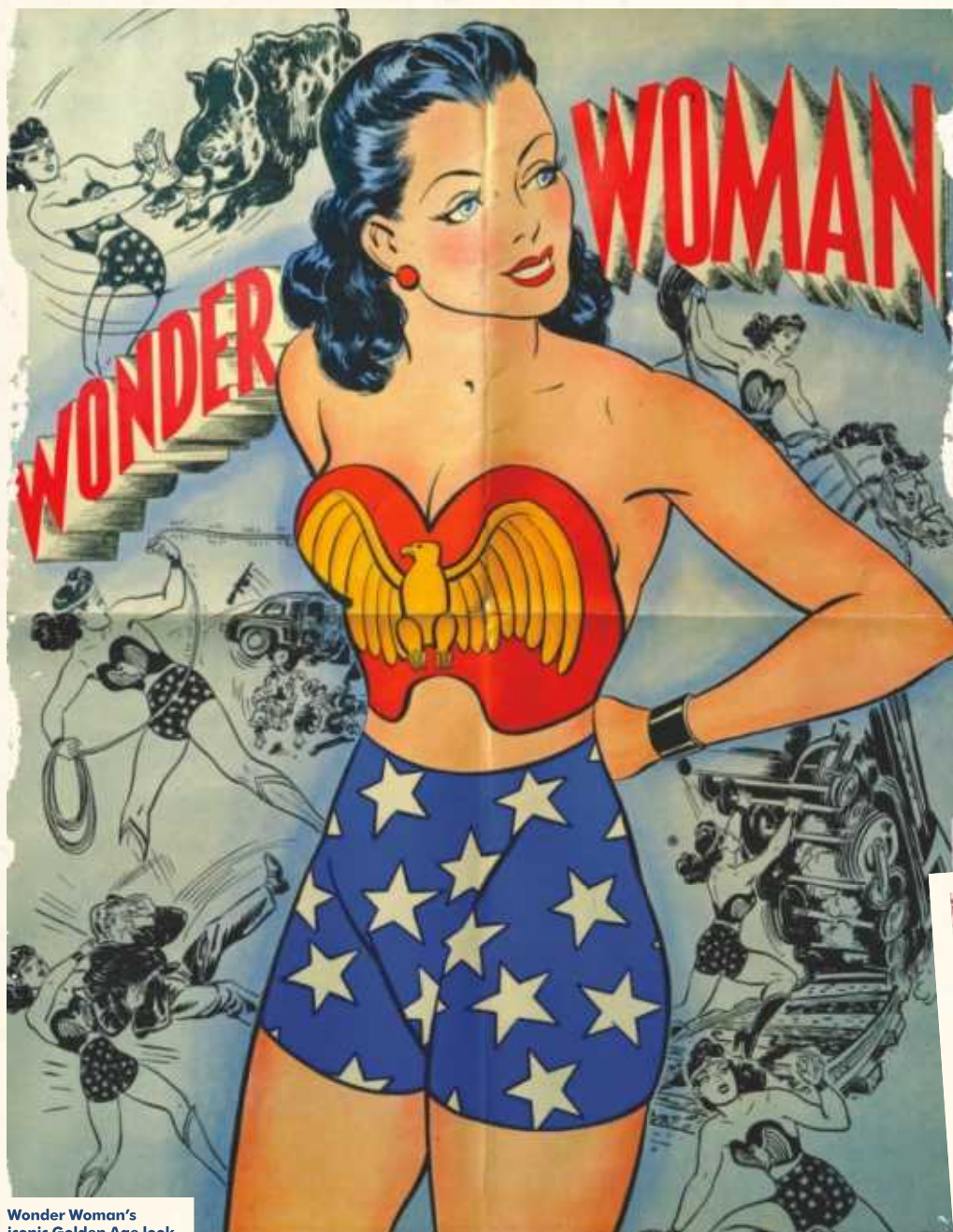
"Then there was the powerful inspiration of my mother, Agnes," Morrison continues. "My mum and dad divorced when I was 12, and I lived with my mother and sister through my teenage years. Agnes was a poor, working class, feminist, science-fiction fan, activist and anti-nuclear protestor who spoke on behalf of Women Against the Bomb at the Hague in Amsterdam. Thanks to her, as a teenager I was reading *Cosmopolitan*, Gloria Steinem and Erica Jong. Agnes was in hospital as the early *Wonder Woman* art pages were coming in, and those were the last pieces of my work that she saw and commented on in the days before she died. I found myself reflecting more deeply on her influence, and that found its way into the *Wonder Woman* trilogy."

While *Wonder Woman* started out as a part-mythological character, her story moved away from it and her feminist roots when Moulton Marston died in 1947. Robert Kanigher took over writing duties, and she

became a traditional beat-em-up hero, obsessed with winning over the love of her life, Steve Trevor. Her status as an icon, however, remained, even when depowered in the early Seventies to become a mod boutique owner learning martial arts in homage to *The Avengers*.

"*Wonder Woman* carries all the components of an icon," Marguerite Sauvage, artist of *Sensation Comics Featuring Wonder Woman*, tells us. "For example, her mythological roots give her a strong basis, and her history is really one of women empowered. She's a historical figure as well, a pillar of the comics culture and of the pop culture through the variety of media she appeared in. Her history as a fictional character also makes her very accessible."

"I think the core of what *Wonder Woman* represents is always the same: female strength and compassion," adds Cliff Chiang, artist of *Wonder Woman* from 2011-14, written by Brian Azzarello. "But as the culture shifts, so do the definitions of strength and compassion. It is vitally important to create stories where women do tremendous things and inspire us all to try harder. To be honest, I don't think superhero stories are always the best or most nuanced vehicle for discussing feminism, and you can see how genre conventions buckle against that weight, but as such a beloved and enduring icon she will always carry that meaning. She's not simply a crime-fighter or a warrior; *Wonder Woman*'s complexity is what makes her compelling and challenging." ➤



Wonder Woman's iconic Golden Age look.



Lynda Carter, the ultimate Wonder Woman for an entire generation.



THE FAVOURITES' FAVOURITES

What runs do the writers of Wonder Woman pick out?

DIANA PRINCE: WONDER WOMAN (Denny O'Neil, Mike Sekowsky)

Cliff Chiang: "I admire the art for the Sixties mod era. I can't get enough of Sekowsky and Giordano!"

★ **THE WONDER WOMAN CHRONICLES** (William Moulton Marston, Harry G Peter)

Grant Morrison: "It would have to be the original Marston and Peter stories for me. I tried reading some other Wonder Woman stories and runs from the past 80 years, but as much as I enjoyed and appreciated the work, it didn't ring the bells in the same way as the originals."



WONDER WOMAN: EARTH ONE (Grant Morrison, Yanick Paquette, Nathan Fairbairn)

Marguerite Sauvage: "The last I've read is the one by Yanick Paquette and Grant Morrison, and of course I loved it!"



★ **WONDER WOMAN: THE HIKETEIA** (Greg Rucka, JG Jones)

Kurt Busiek: "I'm a big fan of a lot of what Marston and Peter did in the Golden Age, and also a big fan of Mike Sekowsky's depowered 'Emma Peel' run. And I think what Greg Rucka did in his first run on the character did a sterling job of bringing that fantasy-myth aspect to the fore in a way that made it both grand and modern."

★ "And there's a lot of other good stuff — what George Perez did, what Gail Simone did — and what Steve Englehart brought to the character in *Justice League* had a lot of power for me."

★ "Mostly, I look at the whole run and get charged up about the cool bits wherever they arise more than picking one run as ideal. There's a lot to find and treasure in her history, overall."



TOP 10 WONDER WOMAN TITLES

PARADISE LOST

(Phil Jimenez, JM DeMatteis, Joe Kelly)

The first creator to openly talk about the queerness of Wonder Woman, Jimenez' run remains a firm fan favourite, continued in *Gods Of Gotham* and *Paradise Found*.



★ WONDER WOMAN: THE TRUE AMAZON

(Jill Thompson)

The Eisner Award-winning writer and artist takes on the early years of Diana in this all-ages original graphic novel, itself a beautiful-looking piece of art.



★ WONDER WOMAN: BLOOD

(Brian Azzarello, Cliff Chiang, Tony Akins)

One of the most popular New 52 titles when launched back in 2011, this highly mythological take on Wonder Woman attracted both praise and outrage.



★ THE LEGEND OF WONDER WOMAN

(Kurt Busiek, Trina Robbins, Nansi Hoolahan)

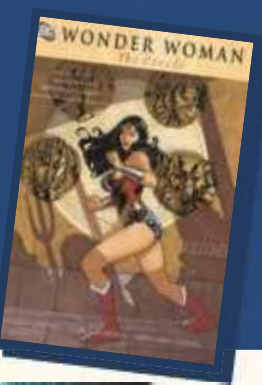
Available digitally, this four-issue miniseries is a must-read, not least due to the artwork of legendary alternative comic artist Robbins.



★ WONDER WOMAN: THE CIRCLE

(Gail Simone, Terry Dodson, Bernard Chang)

One of the highlights of the great Gail Simone's career, as Diana relearns things from her past and searches for her true self.



➤ With such varied interpretations throughout the decades, how do creators decide which Diana to use?

"Well, I've made a point of dialling back the sword-wielding warrior portrayal," Morrison tells us. "That approach, although understandable, discards much of the originality of the character as established by William Moulton Marston and Harry Peter, and tends to confuse Wonder Woman with the classic 'warrior woman' archetype – Xena, Red Sonja etc – which is already well-represented in comics and elsewhere. Marston's Wonder Woman didn't use a sword, carry a shield or kill her enemies; her weapons of love included bracelets that allowed her to deflect any projectile, and a lasso with mind-control powers. Swords and shields seemed such a retrograde step back from those concepts that I chose to reject them in favour of the genuinely transgressive and unusual material."

Morrison is of the opinion that feminism as we understand it could never have developed on an island of immortal women. "With no men to oppress or define them, Amazons simply developed their own bubble culture, values, art, politics and philosophy. Having said

that, ultimately, the Amazons are female supremacists. Their attitude towards men is less one of hate and more a superior pity. They consider the Y chromosome to be a malignant genetic malfunction, and view the men of our present day as degraded specimens, lacking even the monstrous nobility or glory of the heroes of legend. They also endorse a fairly standardised body type, and show little sympathy for women who deviate from the basic *Sports Illustrated* swimsuit athleticism of the Amazons. So like most utopias, Amazonia has its glitches and flaws, but also the potential to improve.

"So I'm trying not to define Wonder Woman too rigidly, force her into a particular role or tie her down to a specific approach; there will be three books in our series, and the second part of the trilogy – Yanick has already drawn the first 20 pages – sees Diana's attempts to define a role for herself as the bridge between Amazonia and 'Man's World', only to fall foul of the darker side of submission and 'loving authority'. We want her to have depth, dimension, contradictions and doubts, and to make her more relatable.

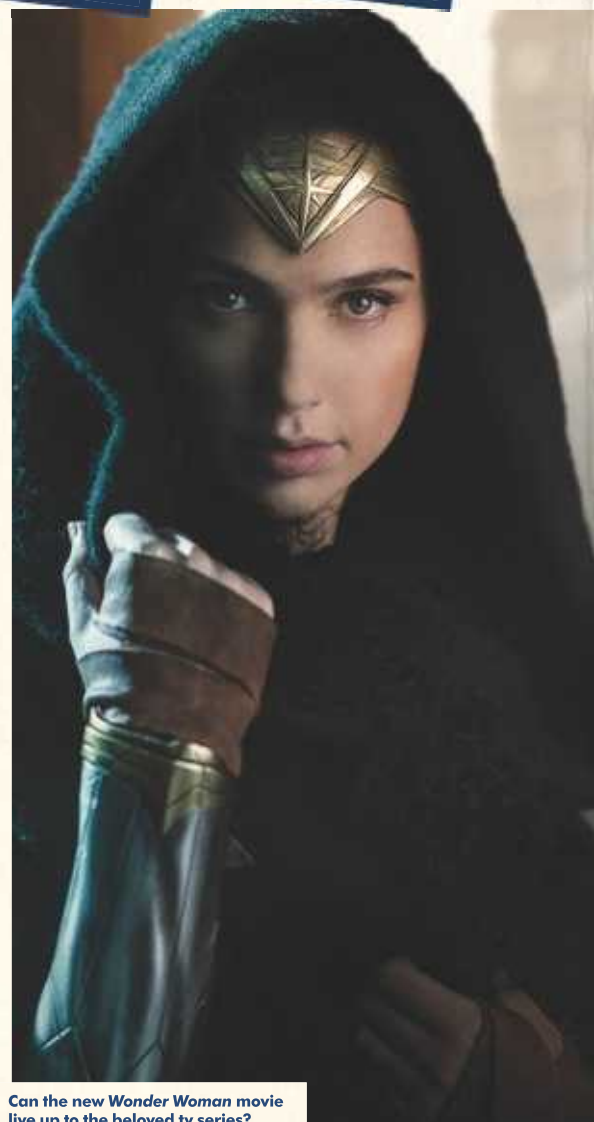
"Ultimately, I think our version of Diana is designed to seem more youthful, almost teenaged, than is usual – when I was a kid she always came across as some boring, grown-up maiden aunt – and in spite of her rebellion, she's very much her mother's daughter. Queen Hippolyta is a huge and powerful presence in these stories, and as I've said, perhaps it's because I'm inexorably becoming unstoppably ancient, but I think I actually prefer her mum to Diana in many ways!"

Many fans, of course, came to the character via the *Wonder Woman* television series that ran from 1975-79 starring Lynda Carter, not long after the aforementioned Gloria Steinem put Wonder Woman on the cover of *Ms* magazine. Diana had transcended the world of comics, and was now a globally recognised pop icon.

"When I was a kid there were not many comic books from the US in book stores," reveals Paris-born Sauvage. "My brothers were reading *Strange*



Oh my! Bondage has long been Wonder Woman's forte.



Can the new *Wonder Woman* movie live up to the beloved tv series?

WONDER WOMAN BY GREG RUCKA

(Rucka, JG Jones, Drew Johnson)
Often hailed as the greatest of Wonder Woman runs, Rucka's first work on the title is collected here, including the hard-to-get hold-of *Hikeiteia*.



★ THE LEGEND OF WONDER WOMAN: ORIGINS

(Renae De Liz, Ray Dillon)
A title revived as a now continuing series, this retells the origins of Wonder Woman outside of continuity – perfect for new readers.



★ WONDER WOMAN BY GEORGE PEREZ

(Perez, Len Wein, Bruce Patterson)
Perez took the relaunched Wonder Woman in a new direction for five years, tying her more closely to her mythological roots. Mindy Newell co-wrote for a year.



★ SENSATION COMICS

(Gail Simone, Gilbert Hernandez et al)
The best of modern-day comics' take on the adventures of Diana across three volumes, featuring Gail Simone, Alex de Campi, Marguerite Sauvage and more.



★ THE SECRET HISTORY OF WONDER WOMAN (Jill Lepore)

With a biopic on the way, there's no better time to delve into the lives of Wonder Woman's creators – namely Marston, his wife Elizabeth, and their lover Olive Byrne.



Wonder Woman's first appearance hit all the notes in just the first page alone.



"THROUGH WORKING ON WONDER WOMAN AND MEETING AND TALKING TO FANS, I'VE BECOME ACUTELY AWARE HOW IMPORTANT SHE IS AS A SYMBOL"

CLIFF CHIANG

Magazine, and the other comic books were mostly Franco-Belgian bande dessinée... but there was this show on TV with the amazingly beautiful yet strong Lynda Carter. She's one of my first memories of a glamorous heroine. Then when growing up I started to know more and read more about Wonder Woman."

Indeed, her cultural resonance is what has drawn comics' most interesting creators – like Chiang – to her title: "She's an icon, and the chance to do something different with a character like that was an irresistible creative challenge. My first memories of the character are from the Lynda Carter TV show or the [animated series] *Superfriends*, but through the years I've become more familiar and more aware of what she represents besides a costume. Through working on *Wonder Woman* and meeting and talking to fans, I've become acutely aware how important she is as a symbol, and thus important to me."

That high status of Wonder Woman, who is often expected to represent the hopes and dreams of all female fans, would perhaps be expected to create pressure on creators. "No one idea or portrayal can ever represent the hopes and dreams of all female fans, given that every female fan is an individual with different tastes and requirements, so that's never been a concern," Morrison answers.

The pressure was more along the lines of 'Why are men telling Wonder Woman stories at all? Shouldn't this assignment go to a female team?' – a headline stance which overlooked that the character was originally written and drawn by two men, or that *Wonder Woman*:

Earth One was only one of numerous available takes on the character, several of which – like Meredith Finch's work on the monthly comic, or Renae De Liz's online series *Legends Of Wonder Woman* – were in fact written – and drawn, in the case of Jill Thompson's recently released *Wonder Woman: The True Amazon* – by women.

"Any pressure was rooted in my resistance to this idea that men should no longer be permitted to write about women on the basis that they lack personal experience and understanding. While that may be true, it's also true that men are, without a doubt, this planet's keenest and most obsessive observers of women and their behaviour, so God knows we may turn out to have some valuable insights! The reverse is also true – although it's rare to hear anyone complain that JK Rowling's lack of personal experience as a man should disqualify her from writing about teenage boys or male wizards. And as for the Bronte sisters..."

A recent interview with current *Wonder Woman* writer Greg Rucka focused on the inherent queerness of Diana, a character who after all grew up in an all-female environment. It's a point made long ago by earlier writer Phil Jimenez, and indeed in more recent years by Morrison. ➤



DE CAMPI ON WRITING WW

The British-American writer on the American hero in Britain



Why do you think Wonder Woman is such an important character in both comics and pop culture, and in what ways do you think that has changed over the decades?

Well, she's the only female superhero, isn't she? The only real one, with an unbroken line of solo books stretching back for decades. The only one given spotlight billing. Sure, there are lots of other women comic-book characters, women who are part of teams and/or have occasional solo books. But publishers never made the long-term commitment to them as equals of the male characters that DC has with Wonder Woman. It's laughable that there's still just the one, and she's only just now getting a solo movie, but hey, crumbs of cake is better than no cake at all.

Wonder Woman has also been a showpiece for several female and LGBT creators who have delivered fantastic runs on the book. This is important, because comic-book companies still don't call on female/LGBT/PoC creators to write the white-guy heroes. They just assume... we can't do it? I guess. Even though we're surrounded by stories about white dudes in all media, WE GOT THIS. We've done the research by osmosis, trust me on this. Yet still, they call the black (male) creators for the handful of black characters, sometimes. They call the women and the LGBTQIA creators to write all the C-list female heroes or the very few LGBTQIA heroes, sometimes. But a black creator writing *Iron Man*? Or a woman of any race writing *Superman* or *Batman*? Nah sorry, we got white guys for that. So Wonder Woman is our little place where we can be up there in the main titles.

Working on such an iconic character, who is often expected to represent the hopes and dreams of all female fans, is there a pressure on you as a creator, and if so how do you balance that?

As a creator, you can't get tied up in what the audience wants or expects. You have to respect your audience, and respect both the consolations of fiction and the structure of the craft, but from there your job is to dazzle and surprise and delight. And as I've said, so many female and LGBTQIA creators come to Wonder Woman full of our own hopes and dreams, we have enough to work on already. Hopefully we share the same dreams. I'm thinking we probably do.

What is your favourite Wonder Woman run?

The one that exists in my head, that I'll probably never get to write.



Savage captures the youthful fans of Wonder Woman.

"OUR WONDER WOMAN'S SEXUALITY IS ABSTRACT, FORMALISED AND ALMOST ALIEN"

GRANT MORRISON

➤ "I made a point of foregrounding Wonder Woman's alternative roots in all my interviews for the *Earth One* book, so it's old news to me," says Morrison, "But I'm glad this reading has finally found a social context in which to become meaningful again. The tendency is still to be somewhat reductive and unimaginative, probably in the service of pithy clickbait 'Wonder Woman Gay/Bi!' headlines. To me, the least interesting thing about Amazon sexuality is that Diana might be a lipstick lesbian or swimsuit bisexual; I think that misses the point. What's really fascinating to me about the Amazon separatist culture is the weirdness of the bondage, loving authority elements and the lifestyle they imply.

"The way I see, it's not about being 'queer' in all the obvious, 21st-century, culturally approved ways – after thousands of years of intimate relationships among the same group of women, even the most intense lesbian passions would have worn thin and lost their earthy savour. Our Diana's sexuality is abstract, formalised, almost alien. In Yanick and I's take, the leashes and locks, chains and shackles take the place of traditional sexual activity. Amazon sexuality is erotic, stylised and aesthetic rather than hot, sweaty and physical. They are incredibly long-lived sophisticates who've fucked one another to the point of boredom and beyond. Sex for the Amazons is a thing of ritual, formality and ceremony – think of the elaborate costumes and ceremonies of the Anglican Church, but with added BDSM – making their customs genuinely 'queer' and much weirder than a taste for mere lesbianism."

While *Earth One* received some criticism for its inclusion of erotic bondage, it is rooted in the original character as conceived by the Marstons, with no Golden Age Wonder Woman story passing by without



Paquette lets Etta Candy take the fashion reins.

the Amazonian hero experiencing bondage and spanking – whether receiving or delivering. It is perhaps a vision that lies at odds with her intended feminism, but it fits in perfectly with Moulton Marston's belief that the world would be a better place if only men would lovingly submit to women. How much of that will translate to next year's *Wonder Woman* movie remains to be seen, but fans wait with baited breath.

"I'm looking forward to the movie version," Morrison confides. "The best bits in *Batman V Superman* are when Wonder Woman appears to the accompaniment of that crazy speeded-up, quasi-eastern blast of music that seems to follow her everywhere she goes. More of that hysteria and madness, please!"

Wonder Woman: Earth One is available now.

WONDER WOMAN

COMPLETE GUIDE



WORDS JONATHAN HATFULL

JOIN US AS WE HEAD BACK TO THE NOSTROMO TO REMEMBER WARRANT OFFICER ELLEN RIPLEY AND THE SHIP'S EIGHTH PASSENGER IN A TRUE MASTERPIECE OF SCIENCE FICTION AND HORROR. IN SPACE, NO ONE CAN HEAR YOU SCREAM...



Film

RUNNING TIME:

117 minutes

RELEASE DATE:

30 September 1979

DIRECTOR:

Ridley Scott

WRITER:

Dan O'Bannon

CAST:

Sigourney Weaver, Tom Skerritt, Veronica Cartwright, Yaphet Kotto, Ian Holm, Harry Dean Stanton, John Hurt

About

The crew of the mining ship Nostromo are woken from hypersleep early to answer a distress call coming from a crashed ship on an unexplored planet. The search party makes an incredible discovery, but encounters a hostile organism that attaches itself to Kane's face. They bring him back on board, but attempts to remove the creature prove hopeless. After a short while it is found dead, and after the Nostromo takes off, Kane wakes up. His recovery is short-lived, as he has become the host for a terrifying creature that makes a dramatic entrance and exit through his rib cage. Can this alien be stopped? Or will the crew be picked off one by one?

ALIEN

"You still don't understand what you're dealing with, do you?" asks Ash as Ripley, Parker and Lambert scramble for a hope of survival. "Perfect organism. Its structural perfection is matched only by its hostility."

That goes double for *Alien*. There's such a powerful raw terror to Ridley Scott's masterpiece. It's a combination of fears you'd find in a textbook and those that you didn't know you had. From the elegant opening shots of silent space to Ripley's final, frantic tangle with the creature, this film is determined to scare the shit out of you, and nearly 40 years on, *Alien* hasn't lost its edge.

So where to begin? The creature, pulled from our nightmares by HR Giger? The stunning set designs, which make this future feel lived-in and real? The facehugger, the chestbuster, the acid for blood? The iconic heroine, the perfect ensemble cast? The terrifying sound design, Jerry Goldsmith's eerie score? There is not a single wrong note in *Alien's* symphony of horror. It's the gold standard, the high bar that countless

horror and sci-fi films have reached for and very few have matched.

Let's start with the space truckers. As many lesser films have proved, including Scott's own *Prometheus*, this type of movie just doesn't work if you don't care about the characters. These seven people aren't living in a sci-fi film; they're real people. *Alien* opens with the ship waking up shortly before the crew does, with the computers booting up and ending the hypersleep cycle.

The shot of Kane (John Hurt) being the first to wake from the "freezerinos", as Brett puts it, are about as *Star Wars* as *Alien* gets, with the room and its slumbering occupants bathed in white light. From then on, Scott takes the shine off. They cough, they eat breakfast, they smoke and they complain. The cramped quarters are littered with little personal touches (that drinking bird), and everyone's relationships are established so quickly and gracefully that you wonder why other movies find it so hard.

The casting is obviously crucial. Yaphet Kotto and Harry Dean Stanton make a

double act for the ages as Parker and Brett, the two bonus-situation-obsessed engineers who have obviously spent years working together. Leaving aside the fact that Harry Dean Stanton's mere presence makes any film worth watching, they root you in this world immediately with every laugh, complaint and "Right." The same goes for Tom Skerritt's mostly-easy-going captain Dallas, Veronica Cartwright's griping navigator Lambert, John Hurt's adventurous XO Kane, Ian Holm's prickly science officer Ash, and of course, Sigourney Weaver's take-charge warrant officer Ellen Ripley.

And speaking of Kane, the character is at the centre of two of genre cinema's most iconic sequences. The first is his discovery of the cavernous egg chamber on the downed spaceship, as he is winched down into the terrifying unknown. You're on the edge of your seat, urging him not to investigate further, but he breaks the layer of mist that begins the reaction and gets right up close to the egg, close enough to see that there's movement. This... thing is dripping with moisture, almost rippling, and as the flaps open there's an audible creak as Kane recoils, then inches closer... and then the creature bursts forth in a flurry of fingers, tentacles and god knows what else with an inhuman shriek, launching itself onto the explorer's face. It's the first real jump scare in the film, and it's absolutely horrifying.

We should also mention the incredible detail that goes into making it a convincing living monster, particularly the tail tightening around the unconscious Kane's neck like a noose when it's threatened, the horribly jointed fingers and its squidgy seafood anatomy.

Which brings us to the chestbuster. The facehugger has fallen off and died, and Kane has woken up with a "horrible

"THERE IS NOT A SINGLE WRONG NOTE IN ALIEN'S SYMPHONY OF HORROR"



The crew aren't heroes; they're just regular blue-collar workers.

CLASSIC QUOTES

**"BRING BACK
LIFE FORM. PRIORITY
ONE. ALL OTHER
PRIORITIES RESCINDED"**

ASH

**"IT'S GOT A WONDERFUL DEFENCE
MECHANISM. YOU DON'T DARE
KILL IT"**

PARKER

**"MICRO CHANGES IN
AIR DENSITY, MY ASS"**

RIPLEY

**"YOU STILL DON'T
UNDERSTAND WHAT
YOU'RE DEALING WITH,
DO YOU? PERFECT
ORGANISM. ITS STRUCTURAL
PERFECTION IS MATCHED
ONLY BY ITS HOSTILITY"**

ASH

**"CAN WE JUST TALK
ABOUT THE BONUS
SITUATION?"**

PARKER

**"FINAL REPORT OF THE
COMMERCIAL STARSHIP
NOSTROMO, THIRD OFFICER
REPORTING. THE OTHER
MEMBERS OF THE CREW -
KANE, LAMBERT, PARKER,
BRETT, ASH AND CAPTAIN
DALLAS - ARE DEAD. CARGO
AND SHIP DESTROYED. I
SHOULD REACH THE FRONTIER
IN ABOUT SIX WEEKS. WITH A
LITTLE LUCK, THE NETWORK
WILL PICK ME UP. THIS IS
RIPLEY, LAST SURVIVOR OF THE
NOSTROMO, SIGNING OFF"**

RIPLEY

**"HOLD ON A SECOND,
THERE'S MOVEMENT"**

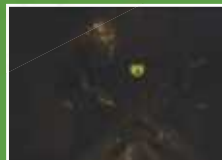
KANE

**"In space, no one can hear you scream".
It's hard to recall a more apt tagline.**

TOP 5 ALIEN RIP-OFFS

The bitch is back.
Kind of

CONTAMINATION (1980)



1 A ship carrying a whole load of sinister green eggs from Mars arrives in New York, spraying deadly green goo when anyone tries to touch them.

GALAXY OF TERROR (1981)



2 A spaceship full of badasses and weirdos encounter a planet of their worst nightmares in this Roger Corman-produced schlockster.

FORBIDDEN WORLD (1982)



3 A deadly man-made lifeform decimates the crew of a desert planet research station, evolving as it goes.

Each of the models made for the film are marvels of film design



it's obviously phallic, and Scott never really shows us what it's doing to the people it kills. We get glimpses of Brett's skull being crushed, of Parker battling with it and, arguably most frighteningly of all, the horrified Lambert being backed into a corner as it inches slowly towards her. Her screams echoing through the ship as Ripley sprints to help are truly upsetting. The infamous deleted cocoon sequence would show the next stage of the alien's life cycle, with Brett being turned into an egg and Dallas being turned into... something, but to be honest, it's just as well that the sequence was cut.

We say this because the film is perfectly paced. It's always slower than you remember, especially at first, but Scott and his editors Terry Rawlings and Peter Weatherley know exactly what they're doing. Brett's hunt for the cat feels like

"RIPLEY'S HEROISM AND SURVIVOR STATUS ARE EARNED BY THE SCRIPT AND HER PERFORMANCE"

➤ dream about... smothering," and a request for something to eat before they go back into hypersleep. It's a beautifully staged sequence, as his choking fit ("The food ain't that bad, baby!") quickly turns into convulsions ("This is serious") and his friends try to hold him down, Parker doing his best to wedge a spoon between his teeth. Hurt gives an incredible physical performance as he writhes on the table, before that first awful rupture sends blood flying. There's a crucial pause, giving us a half-second to register that the crew is frozen, as horrified as we are, before they really go for it, pushing the creature through

his chest with a terrible scream and sending a fountain of blood straight onto poor Veronica Cartwright.

We really can't talk about *Alien* without discussing HR Giger's work. The Swiss artist is such a vital element, and his heavily sexualised designs perfectly fit Dan O'Bannon's plan to play on male sexual fears. The *Nostromo* is bulky, practical and somehow familiar. There's really nothing on the ship that you can't figure out what it does simply by looking at it. The alien ship is the exact opposite, a puzzling blend of practical and organic, with giant spaces, bizarrely ridged corridors and that long-dead space jockey.

The sexual imagery really starts with the facehugger, forcing its way into Kane's mouth and throat to implant its eggs in his chest, and there is of course the "birthing scene," as we've already discussed. In case the viewer didn't get the message, Ash even refers to the creature as "Kane's son" shortly after the incident.

Then there's the full-grown alien itself. It's nightmarish in its incomprehensibility (where are its eyes for God's sake?), and



ALIEN 2: ON EARTH (1985)



4 This bit of shamelessness finds a group exploring a cave and finding a killer alien. Memorable for featuring a bowling alley chase sequence.

CREATURE (1985)



5 This very-much-an-Alien-rip-off features a crew answering a distress signal to discover a killer alien creature – and Klaus Kinski.

it takes forever, but that's because you know that something's coming and you're desperately looking for it. Is it hiding in the clinking chains? Is it waiting for him as he puts his head under the drops of water? Is it behind Jones? Every suspense sequence, from Dallas' hunt through the air ducts to Ripley's race against the self-destruct, is so perfectly orchestrated, designed to leave you with no fingernails left by the end of the film.

And at the end of the film, there's only Ripley remaining (well, Jonesy too). She is introduced as a bit of a busybody who's obviously not popular with the rest of the crew (with the possible exception of Dallas, who doesn't really seem to have it in him to harbour any resentment towards anyone). Weaver gives us a woman with hard edges and firm principles, and the film doesn't ask us to like her straight away. Take her

refusing to allow Dallas, Lambert, and the face-hugged Kane back onto the ship. We know that she's absolutely right, but it's a logical decision rather than an emotional one, and it pits her against the rest of the crew. As we go along, we watch Ripley go from someone who's a bit of a stickler to the person who is most likely to get people out alive. Her heroism and survivor status are earned, both by the script and by Weaver's unshowy but absolutely compelling performance. She's tough (she has no problem standing up to the raging Parker), vulnerable ("You are my lucky star..."), and both human and absolutely heroic.

We've barely scratched the surface of *Alien*, but each viewing confirms that it really is a perfect film. No matter how many times you watch it, you'll be terrified and fascinated, and screaming at Ripley not to go back for that bloody cat. 🐈

Sigourney Weaver's heroic Ripley is as crucial to the film as the beast itself



The iconic chestbuster gets us every time.



The set design is absolutely stunning, and convincing.



It says a lot that the Space Jockey scene sowed the seeds for *Prometheus*.

WATCH FIRST



THE TEXAS CHAIN SAW MASSACRE (1974)

Tobe Hooper's classic nerve-shredder made Scott want to direct a horror movie, and you can see the influence.

WATCH NEXT



EVENT HORIZON (1997)

Underrated, this deep-space Gothic horror pits Sam Neill and Laurence Fishburne against the ship from hell.

YOUR TAKE ON THE CLASSIC

WHAT YOU THOUGHT @SCIFINOW



"Masterpiece, timeless & epic. And SO rewatchable. Also... JONESY!! *shakes fists*" **@RinnReads**



"One of the most atmospheric sci-fi horror movies ever made, love it!!" **@BeardedWhovian**



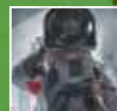
"The scariest movie ever made with a genius Jerry Goldsmith score, just flawless. Next level." **@filmsonwax**



"I wrote my first Master's thesis on this movie and how it challenges the heroic archetype of the classic American hero. Ironic today. One of my absolute favorite films. Still gives me chills!" **@cheresecapadona**



"Every male's nightmare. 'Congratulations, it's a boy!'" **@SharrelWright**



"Alien is a magnificent film. Great cast, superb direction, and the incredible design by HR Giger make it a true sci-fi classic." **@paul_bowler**



**"WE HONESTLY
DIDN'T THINK
IT WOULD GO
ANYWHERE!"**
MICHAEL BERRYMAN

Somewhat surprisingly, Berryman reports that the film's most controversial scene wasn't all that hard to do.



INTERVIEW

MICHAEL BERRYMAN ON THE HILLS HAVE EYES

THE LEGENDARY STAR OF THE HILLS HAVE EYES TAKES US BACK TO THE HORROR CLASSIC AND TELLS US WHY WES CRAVEN WAS THE MASTER

WORDS JONATHAN HATFULL

***The Hills Have Eyes* is truly unforgettable. Wes Craven's sophomore horror was unleashed on audiences in 1977, and painted a terrifying picture of a family forced to discover their own survival instinct when confronted with a clan of mutant killers in the American desert. It confirmed Craven as one of horror cinema's most exciting and provocative talents, and it's a testament to his incredible work that it's still a powerful and timely chiller to this day.**

The film was also the launching pad for the career of character actor Michael Berryman, who became a genre icon following his role as the terrifying Pluto. The star graciously gave us some time to talk about his experiences of shooting, his memories of Wes Craven, and how a drive-in prank nearly went very wrong.

How does it feel to see *The Hills Have Eyes* still be celebrated nearly 40 years on?

It feels great, especially because of the friendships that we made. We had a cult following come about, and it just reflects on Wes's brilliance in writing, directing, and how he put the film together. It's just very well executed, and it holds its own. A lot of the more recent horror films go in and out with the fascination with splatter, special effects, etc, but *Hills* was just so well put together. It has just been a blessing to have met Wes and worked with him on numerous occasions.

How did you get involved with the film?

Well, I had worked on my second film, *One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest*! I learned so much, and when it got done it was kind of sad, because everyone had become an extended family, so I went back to Santa Monica and I was wondering, "Wow, I wonder what my next job will be?"

Then my agent sent me to meet the producers and Wes, and he told me the back story of the Bean family and how that was somewhat factual, and they said, "We saw you in *Cuckoo's Nest*, and the family perhaps has mutations from living on a bomb range," which is kind of ironic. My father was a neurologist and brain surgeon, he went to Nagasaki and to Hiroshima



Berryman tells us that working for Wes Craven made tough locations and difficult scenes worthwhile.

after they dropped the bombs, and when he came home, I was born with some defects that were the direct cause of being irradiated, so it sort of dovetailed with the *Hills* story.

They said, "We're hiring you because of your looks," and I said, "Okay, perhaps the performance will meet your expectations," and I believe it did.

It's a gruelling film to watch, but what was it like to shoot?

Well, we filmed out in the desert about two hours north of Los Angeles, and it's an area I was very familiar with. Most of the actors were from LA, so it fit well that they were the white-bread city folk and we were the wild and crazy ones! But I was comfortable. We had one little mini Winnebago that was for wardrobe, catching a break, production office. It was hot in the daytime and cold at night, and we played it for real.

We filmed the rape scene within a few nights of the production starting – with me and Suze Lanier-Bramlett as Brenda. I had just met her, she was very sweet. We would become friends for years after that, and when we were doing the first take we decided that when Mars pulls back the curtain and I'm supposed to be attacking her, we would be furiously making out for real. So they said, "Okay, action!" and we were not doing the scene like we were supposed to!

Did you have any idea of how successful it would be when you were working on it?

Not really – we all thought it would just disappear and go away. We loved working with Wes, he was the driving force, a great visionary and a great guy, and we wanted to bring his vision to fruition, but honestly we didn't think it would go anywhere, and it did! It's even in the New York Museum of Modern Art as a horror classic, and I got to be on the poster.

One night, the film was showing at a drive-in theatre, and we decided that I should dress up like Pluto and bang on some car windows and scare people. About the second or third car, this girl screams, and this guy gets out with a baseball bat and he's chasing me, and at that point I'm starting to realise the power of this film. I'm running between cars, yelling to Wes and Peter to start the van, and I lost track of where it was! All of a sudden I see headlights, the van pulls up and Wes is leaning out, opening the sliding door and he goes "Jump, Michael, jump!" And I ran like hell! And we left the guy in the dust and we went to a diner, got a cup of coffee and a bite to eat, and we were all pretty quiet. Then we realised, "I think we have a hit!" At that point we realised it was really going to do something.

Why do you think it has stuck with people after all these years?

Well, it's tight, there are no frills, and there's nothing superfluous about it. It has everything: it's got tension, it's got the switch of the roles. Towards the end, the message is: how do you judge your humanity when you have to resort to violence? It doesn't rely on special effects, splatter and a lot of gore; it's just very gritty. You get involved with every character – the good and the bad – and it's very honest.

Wes had his hand in all the decisions to create the mood. I'm just very grateful, and also meeting fans that are older in their years, and they share the moments when they let their children watch the movie for the first time, and those are always kind of cool to hear. You

know, you build it, you produce it, you put it out there, and it has a life of its own. ☞



The Hills Have Eyes is available to buy on Blu-ray now, distributed by Arrow Video.

TRANS FORMERS[®] THE MOVIE



FLASHBACK

TRANSFORMERS THE MOVIE

30 YEARS HAVE PASSED SINCE THE FIRST EVER TRANSFORMERS MOVIE HIT CINEMA SCREENS, AND WHILE IT RECEIVED LUKEWARM REVIEWS UPON RELEASE, IT HAS BECOME A CULT CLASSIC. WE SPOKE TO THE PEOPLE WHO BEAT MICHAEL BAY TO THE PUNCH ABOUT WHAT MAKES IT A NOSTALGIC HIT

WORDS MARK SMITH

If you grew up in the Eighties, chances are there are a few things that stand out in your memory: the unrelenting awesomeness of Mr T, Germany having not one, but two international football teams, and Transformers. The toy robots that turned into jets, cars, guns and even dinosaurs were a staple of many a childhood, and went on to inspire the hugely successful Transformers cartoon series.

The original show pitted the evil Decepticons, ruled by Megatron, against the heroic Autobots, led by Optimus Prime in a war to save Earth and regain control over their home planet of Cybertron. Such was its popularity, it was no surprise that in 1986, franchise owners Hasbro decided to turn the TV incarnation into a movie. Legendary names from sci-fi and pop culture signed up to star as voice actors for the film, including Leonard Nimoy, Orson Welles, Monty Python's Eric Idle and *The Breakfast Club's* Judd Nelson.

The story opened with many of the original characters, and introduced a new villain called Unicron (voiced by Welles), a robot that could transform not into an ambulance or a Walkman like Ratchet and Soundwave, but – as if to illustrate the grander scale of the piece – a giant planet that could devour entire worlds. Surprisingly for a film aimed primarily at children, the plot was also notable for a large number of character deaths, most infamously the shocking demise of Optimus Prime – but more about that later. Although it met with mixed reviews from critics at the time and had a disappointing box office performance, the film – now celebrating its 30th anniversary – went on to achieve cult status.

Decades later, *Transformers* has evolved into a multi-faceted universe all of its own, with cartoons, comics, reboots and alternate timeline stories all continuing to attract new generations of fans. The franchise has also returned to the big screen courtesy of Michael Bay's live-action efforts, but even now, the 1986 version is still often referred to simply as 'The Movie' by fans.

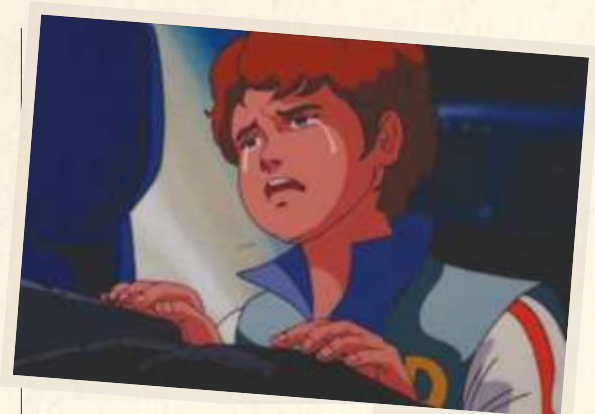
"Within the fandom and among the creators, the significance of *The Movie* has only grown over time," says James Roberts, writer of the *Transformers: More Than Meets The Eye* comic series. He still remembers the impact it had, and credits it with turning him into a lifelong *Transformers* fan, eventually inspiring him to become a writer himself. "I'd just turned ten, and my mum took me and my two brothers to see it during the Christmas holidays. *The Movie* blew me away. The animation was better than any I had ever seen, and it was the first time I'd seen an animated action film – the first 20 minutes are relentless."

The man tasked with penning the film was screenwriter Ron Friedman. The Emmy Award-nominee and WGA Award winner had worked on TV shows such as *Gilligan's Island* and *Starsky And Hutch* before being approached to rewrite 64 episodes of the *Transformers* TV series.

He also won acclaim for his work on the *GI Joe* series. "I created a story outline I thought would be effective," Friedman tells us. "It was approved immediately, and I was given a short period of time to write it, because they knew when they wanted it to be ready. I did the first draft in about two weeks. When I handed in the first draft, the one note was that most of the story was great, but that the Decepticons played more importantly than the Autobots, so a different approach was needed. I readjusted my aim, and wrote a new script, which was accepted and filmed." ➤



Megatron was resurrected as Galvatron, voiced by Leonard Nimoy.



All-action triple-changer Springer was one of the new Autobot faces to appear.





MegaTron gets the lowdown on the Autobots from his trusted flying spy Laserbeak.

➤ Englishman Neil Ross was one of the voice actors lined up to take part in the movie, lending his talents to four characters – most notably Springer, one of the new generation of prominent Autobots. “I was already voicing four characters in the TV series, so when I heard that a feature film was in the offing, I assumed that I would be a part of it.” He said. “We voice actors were all very excited about the film. The TV show was so popular, we figured the film would be huge.”

The creative process involved Ross – whose voice credits range from *Back To The Future II* to the *Call Of Duty* videogames – and his fellow voice actors reading from storyboards. Their vocals were then used as inspiration by the animators to create the visuals. “The voice director has a storyboard, which shows what visuals are planned,” he recalls. “It looks a bit like a

comic book, except the dialogue is at the bottom of the page rather than in a balloon above the characters. In those days the producers wanted the entire cast to be present, so unless you only had a couple of lines, which could be recorded before the main session started, you were there for the duration. Most of the sessions ran for eight hours or more. There wasn’t a great deal of back-and-forth between actors, as there were frequent interruptions and requests for retakes. We were never able to get much of a flow going.

“The movie involved a number of celebrities who worked alone,” he continues. “I never met Orson Welles, Leonard Nimoy or most of the other ‘names’. I did do a session with Judd Nelson and Lionel Stander. [Springer] was a fun character to play. He came easily to me, unlike some of the other characters I voiced in the show, who were real throat rippers. Most of the new characters in the movie were voiced by celebrities, who would then be replaced by one of us plain-wrap folks for the TV series. Why they didn’t give the Springer part to a celebrity I don’t know, but I’m glad they didn’t. It meant I had a pretty big role in the movie.”

One of the things the film was famous for was a large number of deaths. Long-standing characters like Ironhide and Starscream, known to millions of child viewers, were ruthlessly dispensed with early on. MegaTron was also ‘killed’ and rebuilt by Unicron as a new villain called Galvatron, voiced by Nimoy. But undoubtedly the most shocking development



Wheelie and Grimlock prepare to escape from the Quintessa.



The movie included a host of new characters including Hot Rod (Judd Nelson), Kup, Daniel, Arcee and Springer.



Bumblebee and Spike watch on helplessly as Unicron prepared to devour Moonbase Two.



The monster planet Unicron in robot mode as he prepares to dismember Cybertron.

"I SAID OPTIMUS PRIME WAS THE BIG DADDY AND SHOULDN'T BE REPLACED, BUT I WAS OVERRULED"

RON FRIEDMAN

was the death of the franchise's principal protagonist, Optimus Prime.

Following a tussle with his mortal enemy, Megatron, he is shot early in the film and dies somewhat ingloriously on an operating table, his red paint job turning ashen black and the lights in his eyes quite literally going out. "I strongly objected" said Friedman. "I said that Optimus Prime was the big daddy of the Autobot family, and that he could not, and should not be replaced, but I was overruled."

Some critics blasted the deaths as a marketing ploy by Hasbro, and claimed the mass cull of favourites had been done merely to introduce a new range of toys. But for fans, most of them children, the development was unexpected – and for many, hugely distressing. "I was originally told to come up with a story, and that



The Autobot Matrix of Leadership was the only thing that could destroy Unicron.

SCORING THE SOUNDTRACK

VINCE DICOLA RECALLS WHAT IT WAS LIKE TO WORK ON TRANSFORMERS

Anyone over the age of 25 who says they don't have a Rocky IV montage on their gym playlist is almost certainly lying, and it was to the creator of that iconic soundtrack that the producers turned to score *Transformers: The Movie*.

A self-confessed fan of Emerson Lake and Palmer, Vince DiCola's prog rock-inspired score leaned heavily on synth music, and formed the backdrop to some of the movie's biggest moments. Added to those were upbeat rock tunes like Stan Bush's 'The Touch And Dare' and Weird Al Yankovic's 'Dare To Be Stupid', forming an eclectic mix of a soundtrack that has achieved a cult status all of its own.

"I made it clear to the producers that I wasn't at all familiar with the TV series, or even the franchise in general," said DiCola. "I wanted to approach my work on the *Transformers* movie without any preconceived notion of what music came before it, and the producers seemed to be okay with that. I think what initially drew them to my Rocky

IV score was just the concept of a rock foundation featuring synthesizers as opposed to an orchestra. Of course, there was the heroic element in Rocky IV, and it was obvious that the *Transformers* movie needed to have that element as well."

One of the biggest challenges was scoring a film that wasn't finished yet, instead having to rely on storyboards to give him a feel for the finished product. It was a method that he felt hindered his work. A tight time frame also proved to be a major challenge – having only six weeks to record a 70-minute score, compared to three months for recording a 37-minute score on Rocky IV. "I believe the results would've been better had I had a finished picture to score to," DiCola admits, "There were so many changes made after I composed and submitted the initial music, and even though I was blessed to have my friend

and co-producer Ed Fruge working diligently alongside the other editors on the film to make sure the musical edits were as effective as they could be, there was only so much that could be done."

DiCola rates the background music to the death of Optimus Prime as his favourite track on the score, with the lead in and out of Yankovic's 'Dare To Be Stupid' his least favourite. He has consistently and overwhelmingly positive for nearly the entire time the movie has been out," DiCola recalls. "That has been – and continues to be – a great blessing for me and greatly overshadows any misgivings I may have had when viewing the movie for the first time!"



characters I thought to be expendable were to die," explains Friedman. "That was great, because I had come on wanting to kill off some characters. I learned from watching *Snow White* – and never forgot that measuring life against death and death against life always shook emotions loose. It's not the whole story without death in the picture, so I immediately gave my enthusiastic approval – until they told me that one major death would be the death of Optimus Prime."

The void left by Prime was filled by a number of new characters, including the female Autobot Arcee, ageing world-weary veteran Kup, and a young whippersnapper called Hot Rod (voiced by Judd Nelson), who would go through a transformation near the end of the film and become Rodimus Prime, the Autobots' new leader. But although Optimus would later be resurrected in the TV show, Ross suspects the deaths played a part in the film's poor showing at the box office. "Once the word got out that a lot of their favourite characters died – especially Optimus Prime – the kids stayed away in droves and the film tanked. I assumed that it would never be heard of again."

Despite its initially disappointing performance – the film made just over \$5.8 million at the US box office, and was the 99th top-performing film of 1986 – a VHS and subsequent DVD release saw it spawn a new avid fan following. Its stars and creators continue to be in demand at conventions, and a 30th anniversary Blu-ray edition was released in September.

"The film did better," starts Friedman, "and better still as time went by, and I believe toning down the volume on the rock score, which was deafening on initial release, and drowned out too much dialogue helped give the film such a long, long life, during which the reviews continuously improved."

"I assumed that it would never be heard of again," Ross adds, "But over the years, fans have rediscovered it, and nowadays it's quite popular. I have signed many, many copies of the cassettes and DVDs and the poster for the movie at fan conventions. I think the news that Optimus didn't die and the maturing of the audience helped. People seem to love the movie now, which I deeply appreciate. I'm reaching the age where I'm very grateful to have any of my work remembered, let alone revered the way *Transformers: The Movie* is."

Roberts finishes, "It introduced concepts that are now so much part of the fabric of the franchise that you almost take them for granted: Unicron, the Matrix as a glowing crystal, the Quintessons, Autobot City, Megatron turning into Galvatron, Hot Rod turning into Rodimus – all these iconic, timeless moments that still resonate today." ☞



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IS IT A BIRD?

1. What is the name of the main character in Lois Lane's novel?
2. Who plays Clark Kent?
3. Where do Lois and Clark live?
4. What is the Floating Palace?
5. How does Lex Luthor commit suicide in the Season One episode 'The House Of Luthor'?

IS IT A PLANE?

6. What are the names of the parents that adopt Clark when he lands on Earth?

7. In which episode does Lois find out that Clark Kent is Superman?
8. Who is Clark's biological father?
9. What is the name of Clark's love interest who hated Superman?
10. Who sends Lois booby-trapped gifts in Season Two?

NO, IT'S...

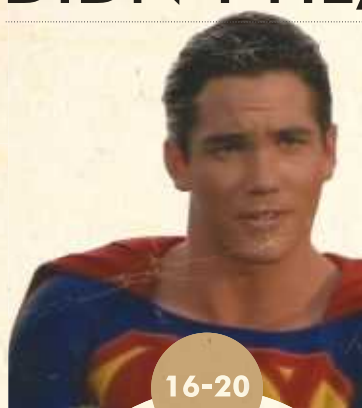



11. What is the name of the criminal organisation led by Bill Church?
12. What does Lois's clone like to eat?
13. What is the key to Superman's spaceship said to resemble?

14. Besides Lex Luthor, which other Superman villain recurs throughout the series?
15. What is Perry White's job at the Daily Planet?

SUPERMAN!

16. Who played Jimmy Olsen in Season One before being replaced for looking too much like Dean Cain?
17. What is the title of the series finale?
18. What is the name of the recurring character played by Kenneth Kimmins?
19. Who did Jon Tenney, Teri Hatcher's husband of nine years, play on the show?
20. For how many seasons did *Lois & Clark* run?

DIDN'T HE/SHE DO WELL! See how you did with our arbitrary scoring system

			
16-20	11-15	6-10	0-5
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Magazine team

Editor Steve Wright
steve.wright@imagine-publishing.co.uk

01202 586244

Art Editor Jonathan Wells
Features Editor Jonathan Hatfull
Senior Staff Writer Poppy-Jay Palmer
Production Editor Jen Neal
Editor in Chief Dan Hutchinson

Contributors

Abigail Chandler, Chris Chantler, David Cousens, Sarah Dobbs, Will Lawrence, Becky Lea, Katherine McLaughlin, Claire Nicholls, Steve O'Brien, Charlie Oughton, Joanna Ozdobinska, Mark Smith, Laura Sneddon, Adam Tanswell, Matthew Turner

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Dan Hutchinson
01202 586283
dan.hutchinson@imagine-publishing.co.uk
Digital or printed media packs are available on request.

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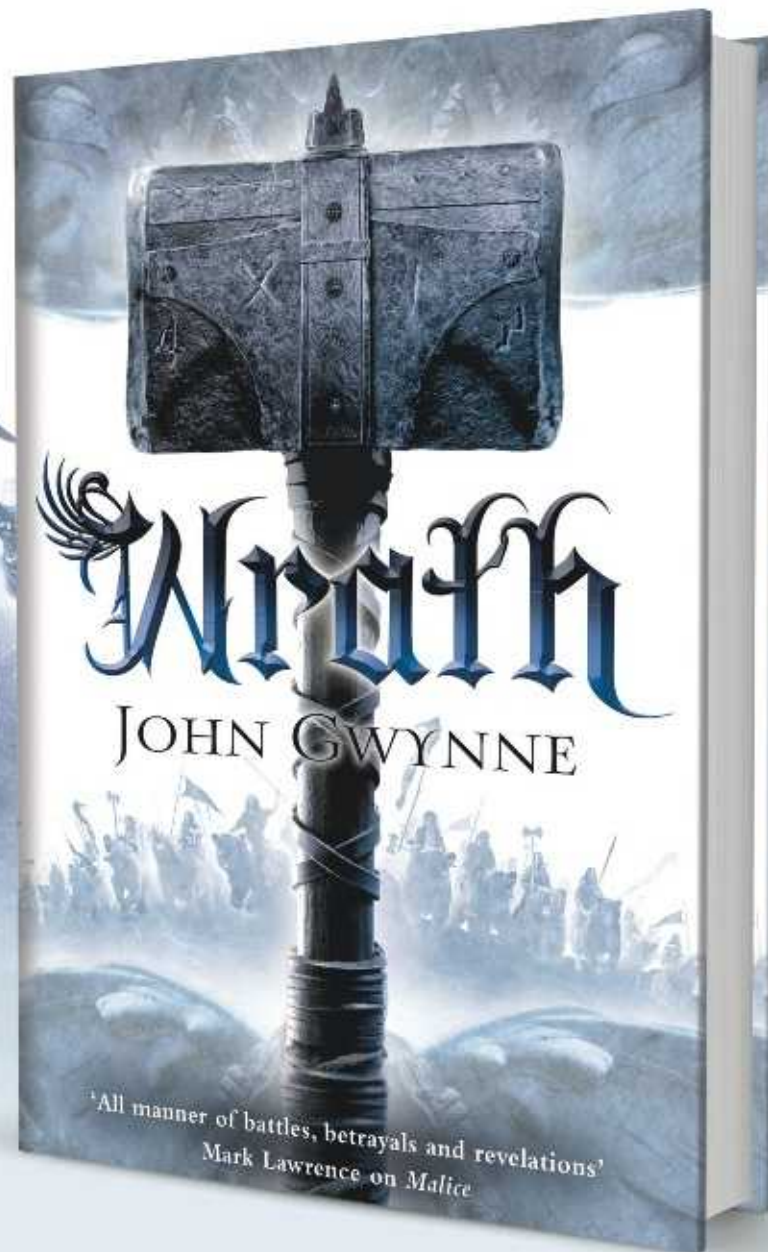
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